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Anglicans return to traditional morality

Liberal bishops routed in vote on homosexuals

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Lambeth Conference last night delivered a resounding blow to the liberal tendency in the Anglican church with a dramatic swing back to traditional, conservative values on homosexuality and marriage.

Bishops voted overwhelmingly against sanctioning the blessing or ordaining of practising homosexuals, and rejected homosexual practice as "incompatible with Scripture" and demanded abstinence for all who are not married.

While condemning "irrational fear of homosexuals", they refused specifically to condemn homophobia. Instead, they agreed to note the "significance" of a statement from bishops in the southern world, the Kuala Lumpur statement, which states that homosexual practice is a sin and calls for a return to biblical norms on sexuality and morality.

The conference voted to change the word "chastity" to "abstinence" in recommending scriptural behaviour for unmarried couples. The motion passed was a conservative, evangelical motion agreed in its original form by the conference subsection examining the issue of human sexuality and then strengthened significantly in the course of the debate.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, was among those who voted for strengthening the motion to include an additional clause rejecting homosexual practice as incompatible with scripture.

Dr Carey said: "We all agree that this has been quite a difficult and painful debate, whatever side one takes on this. Although I accepted the revised resolution with the stronger amendments myself, I am aware that not everyone is comfortable with that."



But, while urging the need for both sides to listen, he said: "I stand wholeheartedly with traditional, Anglican orthodoxy. I see no room in Scripture or Christian tradition for any sexual activity outside matrimony, husband and wife."

After the three-hour debate at the Lambeth Conference, when repeated attempts by liberal bishops to force an early closure failed, the motion emerged in a significantly more conservative form than it had been in before.

Of the 739 bishops at the conference, 641 turned out for the debate at Kent University, Canterbury. Of those, 526 voted for the resolution, 70 against and 45 abstained.

The conservative victory represents a serious rout for the liberal wing which, certainly in Western countries such as Britain, America, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, has captured and held the agenda of the Anglican church since the 1960s.

The Right Rev Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh

and a leading liberal, said: "I feel gutted, shafted and depressed." The Right Rev Jack Spang, Bishop of Newark, New Jersey, condemned the resolution as negative and issued a warning: "Be assured that today's minority will inevitably be tomorrow's majority."

While it was clear from the start of the conference two and a half weeks ago that an alliance between Africans and Western conservatives was out to reverse Anglican liberalism, in particular in the run-up to the millennium, the scale of their victory last night still took observers by surprise.

Although the Lambeth Conference has no legislative authority within the 70-million strong worldwide Anglican church, which has 38 provinces, such a vote on an issue of this importance will send a signal to provinces such as America, where homosexual ordinations and so-called "gay blessings" are relatively common, especially in coastal dioceses in the east and west. In the diocese of Newark, Bishop Spang has recently claimed to have 30 homosexual priests who are "out".

It became clear yesterday that the Anglican church had decided to put the cause of unity ahead of the cause of homosexual rights. Even English liberals, including the Bishop of Oxford, the Right Rev Richard Harries, came out in support of the resolution. Church leaders clearly took seriously the possibility of a split by African or Asian dioceses, were there to be any apparent concessions to liberals on the issue.

The Right Rev Duncan Buchanan, Bishop of Johannesburg, who

Continued on page 2, col 3
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The scene of the crash near Cotgrave in Nottinghamshire from which Stuart Pearce (above) escaped



Footballer escapes car smash

By MICHAEL HORNSWELL

STUART PEARCE, the former England footballer, told last night of his escape when the car he was driving was crushed by an out-of-control tipper truck which landed on his roof.

Pearce, 26, the Newcastle United defender, said that when he realised a collision was imminent he ducked down in the driver's seat and prayed. Fearing that both vehicles could catch fire, he smashed his way out of the wreckage and used his mobile telephone to call emergency services.

After treatment in hospital for minor injuries to his hand and back, he said: "I'm all right — and I suppose I'm very lucky. I remember seeing the dustcart skidding, and I thought: 'He's going to hit me.' I bent over, put my head in my hands and prayed the impact would not be that bad. I had my fingers crossed. The cart landed on its wheels on my roof, and I was pinned slightly. I panicked — it was very frightening. I took my seatbelt off and smashed the passenger window."

Pearce was driving his wife's Rover 216 at Cotgrave, near their home in the Nottinghamshire village of Cropwell Bishop.

A police spokesman said: "He's one hell of a lucky man not to have been crushed to death."

The truck driver was treated for a minor head injury.

Lewinsky to address jury today

MONICA LEWINSKY is expected to make her allegations of a sexual relationship with President Clinton to a grand jury in Washington today (Ian Brodie writes).

A poll taken last weekend by the Pew Research Centre shows 70 per cent of Americans now believe her account, up from 54 per cent just after the scandal broke in January.

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Cook gags former MI6 spy in New Zealand

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR, AND ASTRID SMEELER IN WELLINGTON

WITHIN minutes of landing in New Zealand to start a new life "as a journalist" yesterday, Richard Tomlinson, the former MI6 spy, was served with an injunction to prevent him revealing information about his past career. He had flown from Paris, where he had been briefly detained by French secret service officers.

The decision to seek an injunction in New Zealand was taken by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, in consultation with MI6. The formal application was made to a judge on behalf of John Morris, the Attorney-General.

The Foreign Office said the action had been taken because of fears that Mr Tomlinson, 35, might make damaging disclosures that could cause "substantial harm to the operations of the Secret Intelligence Service and put lives and livelihoods at risk".

Mr Tomlinson's career at MI6 came to grief when his

senior line manager in London recommended his dismissal because of his perceived failure to operate as an effective team member.

He was later sentenced to a year in prison for contravening the Official Secrets Act by trying to sell his memoirs to an Australian publisher. He served nine months and was released in April. But he remained on probation until the end of last month and was barred from talking to journalists or leaving Britain.

When he did leave the British police asked Paris to arrest him. He was released after interrogation.

Mr Cook was advised that if New Zealand-born Mr Tomlinson flew there he might again attempt to write his memoirs or talk to the media. Aware of the previous Government's abortive attempt to stop the publication in Australia and New Zealand of *Spycatcher*, by Peter Wright,

the former MI6 officer, Mr Cook took immediate steps to serve the injunction, with copies to Television New Zealand "and any other organ of the media", to prevent damaging disclosures.

A Foreign Office official said: "The effectiveness of the secret service depends crucially on its ability to protect the secrecy of its operations and the identity of those who choose to offer it intelligence."

After being served with the injunction, Mr Tomlinson appeared on Television New Zealand's evening bulletin. He said: "I am absolutely astounded by the way Wellington seems to be acting complicity with London. To me I have always assumed New Zealand is a sovereign country, not a lackey of London... I came here expecting to be at last in a country of freedom of expression... without any harassment and persecution."

Palace to open on Diana anniversary

By ADRIAN LEE

BUCKINGHAM PALACE will be open to the public on the first anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, officials said yesterday. The decision has the full support of the Queen.

The Palace said that it was "well aware of the significance of the date" but it was not felt appropriate to close. Business will continue as normal at the Palace gift shop, where visitors to the £9.50 tour can buy products ranging from jelly beans and shot glasses to tea trays, shortbread and a video made by Prince Edward.

Last year, tours of the Palace were cancelled for a week in mourning for the Princess, who died in a car crash on August 31.

Althorp House, where the Princess grew up, will close for the season on August 30, so her family can mark the anniversary with a private service on the island where she is buried. Harrods, owned by Mohamed Al Fayed,

whose son Dodi was killed in same crash, will be open.

Buckingham Palace visits run uninterrupted from today until October 4. Windsor Castle and Holyrood, in Edinburgh, will also open as normal on August 31. Confirming that the Queen had been consulted, a Buckingham Palace spokesman said: "It was felt that people should be left to commemorate in their own way. Many people will want to come here to mark the occasion and it was felt that closing the Palace was not the right thing to do."

The Royal Family will hold its own memorial service at Craighie Church, Balmoral. The Union flag will fly at half mast over Buckingham Palace but otherwise there will be nothing to mark the anniversary, which falls on a Bank Holiday and is expected to be one of the Palace's most popular open days. As in the past, nothing bearing the image of the Princess will be on sale.

MoD spoils the ship for a ha'p'orth of painted wood

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

AN historic Royal Navy tradition of presenting hand-painted wooden plaques bearing a ship's crest and motto to local dignitaries on port visits around the world as a symbolic gesture of friendship is the latest victim of defence cuts.

Made by Gieves and Hawkes of Savile Row, at a cost of about £50 each, the plaques are carried on board every surface ship and submarine at the Ministry of Defence's expense. The tradition has been thrown overboard by the MoD's accountants, who have

been ordered to make efficiency savings.

In future, says the MoD's general finance policy department, the ministry will no longer pay for the plaques, with one exception — officers of the rank of admiral can have free plaques. Those of lower status will have to pay for them themselves.

MoD accountants found that the commanding officers of surface warships were spending £31,900 a year on plaques, and submarine commanders, £8,500 a year. Most ships on long tours would take up to a dozen plaques as gifts. The MoD has to save 3 per cent a year to meet efficiency targets.

Navy traditionalists are protesting, especially since George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, has been promoting the new concept of "defence diplomacy", under which the Armed Services are supposed to promulgate the message around the world that the British military are a force for good. After the Government's strategic defence review, defence diplomacy became one of eight "missions" for the forces.

The tradition of giving wooden plaques to the local mayor or equivalent dignitary began in the early part of the century. Captain Richard Sharpe, a former submarine commander, said:

"This goes back to when the captain of a ship wished to prove that he had friendly intent." The commanding officer normally presents the plaque on his "official calls" after arriving in port and receives a gift in return.

Gieves and Hawkes said it made the plaques in light, medium or dark wood, with a raised hand-painted crest, and received many orders from the Royal Navy every year. Captain Sharpe, former commanding officer of the nuclear-powered submarine HMS *Courageous*, whose crest has a hand strangling a viper, said: "This cutback is pathetic, and what happened to defence diplomacy?"

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Terrorists could be free this month

TERRORIST prisoners could be out of Northern Ireland's jails by the end of this month after the Sentence Review Commission decided to issue them with early-release application forms today.

Members of the IRA, the Ulster Defence Association, and the Ulster Volunteer Force in Northern Ireland's four prisons will receive a copy of the form along with an explanatory leaflet. The documents will be delivered this afternoon to prisoners in the Maze, Maghaberry, Magilligan and Belfast's Youth Offence Centre.

Up to 420 men and women, some convicted of murdering many people, are eligible for early release under the terms of the Northern Ireland peace agreement. Sir John Belloch, joint chairman of the commission, said: "If the applica-

Those eligible include people who have taken many lives, reports Audrey Magee

tion forms come in next week then we could be seeing prisoners released by the end of August."

Three commissioners will analyse the application form and interview the prisoner, who will have the right to appeal against a refusal. The prisoner will only be released on licence.

Most of the Maze prisoners are expected to apply, including some of the prison's most notorious terrorists such as the Brighton bomber, Patrick Magee; the loyalist Michael Stone; and the loyalist leader Johnny "Mad Dog" Adair.

Magee, an IRA member, was given eight life sentences for attempting to murder Margaret Thatcher and killing five others in

the 1984 bombing of the Grand Hotel at the Conservative party conference; Stone was sentenced to 30 years in 1988 for ambushing a republican funeral in west Belfast's Milltown Cemetery, killing three and injuring 68; Adair is serving 16 years for leading the killing campaign carried out by loyalist Ulster Freedom Fighters, the old name for the UDA.

The commission said that they would consult victims and their relatives before granting early release to prisoners. Brian Curran, the other joint chairman, who helped set up South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, said: "One is going to have to try and ensure that the process is done in a

mature and responsible fashion so that we are able as far as possible to address the concerns and interests of everyone in the spirit of the agreement."

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist Party spokesman on security, said that he was worried that the prisoners were being released without the decommissioning of IRA and loyalist weapons.

"My concern is that the terms of the [Good Friday] agreement are being taken out of context and while the Government is going ahead with its commitment other parties are not," said Mr Maginnis.

Glyn Roberts, of Families Against Intimidation and Terror, echoed Mr Maginnis's concern. He said: "The

beating and shootings are still being carried out by the IRA. The UDA and UVF were involved in orchestrating the violence around Drumcree, so it is hard to justify letting their prisoners out."

"The Government has to stick to the agreement. They cannot turn a blind eye to what is happening. People did vote for prisoner releases but not against a backdrop of on-going violence."

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said she understood the "frustration and anger" that some people felt about but said that accelerated prisoner releases were part of the agreement.

"We are not just going to open the gates and let them walk. They will

be reviewed in each individual case and there will be a licence and if they break the conditions of the licence they will be back in," she said yesterday.

She added that she believed the IRA had ended its campaign of violence. "I think the war is certainly over for groups that have signed up to an unequivocal ceasefire," she said.

"I have accepted that they are acting in good faith and the security advice I get supports that."

Under the agreement, and the subsequent legislation passed by the British and Irish parliaments, all terrorist prisoners will be released within two years. The early release scheme does not apply to the Loyalist Volunteer Force and the three republican dissident groups blamed for recent bomb and mortar attacks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fifefold rise in illegal immigrants

The number of illegal immigrants discovered at Dover has risen nearly five-fold this year. The number of people caught trying to enter the country illegally at the port was 1,684, the Immigration Service said. Figures for the same period last year were 337. Arrests of illegal immigrants across the country have risen from 330 a month last year to 550. Kosovans, Chinese and Turkish Kurds are the main nationalities attempting to enter the UK illegally.

Organised criminals are charging £2,000 per person to smuggle people into Britain. The gangs are now targeting the Irish Republic with people arriving at southern ports to claim asylum.

Transplant hope

Fears that pig organs transplanted into human beings may transmit viruses may have been overstated, according to findings to be reported at a meeting in London this week. Two studies in the United States have failed to find any evidence of the transfer of pig viruses across the species, it is reported in *New Scientist*.

Party demand

Political aides and spin-doctors working in Government should be paid for by the Labour Party, not the taxpayer, Opposition MPs will demand today. The call to distinguish advisers from civil servants will be set out in a minority report from Conservative and Liberal-Democrats on the Commons public administration committee.

Jail suspensions

Two more prison officers have been suspended at Wormwood Scrubs in London after further claims of brutality. A total of 11 officers have been suspended. Police are investigating claims made four months ago. Richard Tilt, Director-General of the Prison Service, said the latest suspensions came after an internal inquiry.

Launch delayed

The relaunch of *The Sporting Life*, the former racing paper which was to become a sports daily, has been delayed, prompting fears that it will not proceed. Mirror Group Newspapers, its owners, said that more market research was needed. The relaunch date was October 19 and 70 staff have yet to learn how they will be affected.

Abortion payout

A childless woman who was given an abortion without her consent during a hysterectomy, when she did not know she was pregnant, has received a five-figure sum in an out-of-court settlement. Barbara Whiten, 40, from Kirby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, has lodged an official complaint and called for a public inquiry.

Winging it

The Angel of the North, Britain's tallest sculpture, has been climbed by Leo Houlding, 18, a professional climber from Llanberis, North Wales, for a dare. He took 90 seconds to reach the top of the 66ft figure, by sculptor Antony Gormley which was erected earlier this year on the site of a former colliery outside Gateshead.

MPs attack failings over NHS's £32m computer

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN NHS computer system bought eight years ago will not be fully operational until 2003 — and will cost the taxpayer "many times" the £32 million already spent on it, a committee of MPs said yesterday.

Substantial sums of public money have been put at risk through a series of errors and failures by National Health Service managers, the Public Accounts Committee said in a report. The innovative system was acquired by the taxpayer without an independent study and for double the original price. It says that the system of clinical coding that the NHS Executive has spent £32 million on buying and testing is still unproven.

After strong criticism from the National Audit Office, the executive has agreed to an independent review. It has shown "similar reluctance" to evaluate other hospital information systems.

"This is another failure of governance in the NHS," said David Davis, committee chairman and MP for Halton and Howden. "It is wholly unsatisfactory that the NHS Executive allowed management defects highlighted, which it had now remedied."

In March 1990, the NHS

Executive bought the worldwide copyright for £125 million after scrapping a provisional agreement to buy the system for £600,000 from its inventor, James Read, a Leicestershire GP. The NHS Executive said the revised deal would ensure the cost of the system was met centrally and not by users.

A uniform code was becoming essential for the NHS, so that hospitals could exchange accurate information about patients and treatments. Each ailment and treatment was to be given a number code which could be fed into patients' records and which would enable it to be consulted quickly by clinicians.

Dr Read's system, although not fully developed, was considered to be the best available. He not only accepted the revised price but was put on the NHS payroll at £60,000 a year to run the NHS centre for coding and classification while Cams, his private company, had exclusive rights to distribute his codes.

The NHS Executive said that it acknowledged the serious management defects highlighted, which it had now remedied.

The Right Rev Eustace Kamanyire, Bishop of Ruwenzori, said: "It is important we take a stand on the



Bishop Emmanuel Chukwuma of Enugu, Nigeria, argues with Richard Kirker, general secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement.

Liberal bishops lose vote on gay sex

Continued from page 1

moved the resolution, said it was right to say "Jesus is the truth". But he added: "The problem is, as St Paul says, we can only see through a glass darkly." He pleaded: "Can we allow our differences to be points, not of division but of integrity and graciousness?"

The Right Rev Eustace Kamanyire, Bishop of Ruwenzori, said: "It is important we take a stand on the

fundamentals of our faith. We are Christians because we believe in Jesus, we believe in Christ, Saviour, Lord of the world. We share the faith as it is found in the Christian creeds."

He said: "Homosexual acts are in no way sanctioned by scriptures. On the contrary, they are condemned as immoral acts and are therefore a sin."

He said bishops who sanctioned same-sex marriages, were causing "serious scandal" in parts of the world,

such as Africa, which were converted in the first place by missionaries of the Western church a century or more ago. "It is a disgrace to witness those of us who come from young churches can testify to the transforming power of God. This Lambeth Conference must affirm the authority of Scripture of the historic faith."

The Right Rev Wilson Mutebi, Bishop of Mityana in Uganda, said: "In Uganda, the Christian faith is built

on the Bible. We read other books of science and philosophy, but in the end we come back to the Bible. For us the Bible and the apostolic tradition give authority through all our churches."

The Right Rev Alexander Malik, Bishop of Lahore in Pakistan, said: "If we speak against homosexuals, it is not gay bashing but a matter of faith, doctrine and dogma."

Leading article, page 19

Whitehall fails to offer New Deal to the jobless

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HALF of all Whitehall departments have failed to take part in the Government's New Deal programme to employ jobless youngsters, it emerged yesterday.

A comparative table shows that the Social Security Department, co-sponsor of the programme which aims to get people off benefit and into work, has not taken on a single person under the New Deal. In contrast the Education and Employment Department has recruited 320 people under the scheme seven months after its start.

The table, put together by John Healey, Labour MP for Wentworth, from answers to

parliamentary questions shows that the Government has offered only 472 subsidised jobs to the under-25s, compared to 19,000 offered by the private sector.

The best response has been from the Scottish Office, which has taken on 50 youngsters, the Treasury which has recruited 30 people, and the Welsh Office, which has employed 20. Eight departments have taken on no one. They include the Ministry of Agriculture, of Defence, the Home Office and the Northern Ireland Department.

Some of these departments said they would take on young people in the future. The

Social Security department said in its written reply that it was "finalising guidance... and is committed to offering posts to New Deal clients when a suitable offer arises".

Last night Mr Healey, a member of the Employment Select Committee, said the Government should be doing much more to find public-sector jobs for New Deal recruits. "Government should be leading by example, not lagging so far behind the private sector," he said.

"The public sector option needs a top-level boost and a much greater commitment from government departments," he added.

Detective held in drugs raid

SCOTLAND Yard anti-corruption investigators yesterday raided the home of a London detective and suspended him from duty over allegations of drug dealing and recycling seized drugs.

They have also raided the home of a former City of London detective, now retired.

Both officers are understood to be former members of the South-East Regional Crime Squad and the raids were carried out by the Yard's CIB3 unit, formed to lead a corruption purge across the Metropolitan Police. One suspect was a detective constable and the Yard officer still holds the rank.

Yesterday the Yard said that documents were seized from the homes of the two men.

Mandelson urges pay restraint on Cabinet

By JILL SHERMAN

PETER MANDELSON yesterday urged pay restraint on his Cabinet colleagues and suggested that he would accept a pay squeeze for the next three years.

The new Trade and Industry Secretary, who has seen his salary jump by £13,000 in the last week, made clear that senior ministers should take their lead from Gordon Brown, who had "firm judgment on these matters".

His comments, during his first public visit in his new post, followed reports that the Chancellor is planning to maintain the existing Cabinet pay squeeze until the end of the Parliament. They are also

likely to reopen the row over pay that flared last September when Cabinet ministers were persuaded to forgo a £16,000 increase for another year.

Downing Street yesterday tried to distance itself from the reports, saying that there had been no discussion on the matter. "Decisions will be taken in due course on an annual basis," a spokesman said. However, Mr Mandelson's open support for Mr Brown's pay policy is a further signal that ministers are likely to have to forgo £64,000 by the time next election comes round.

During a visit to Imperial College in London, Mr

Mandelson said that had he been a member of the Cabinet at the start he would have supported Mr Brown's line. "In these matters to do with the economy and pay, we have to take our cue from the Chancellor. He has given a very strong lead to date. He brings a great deal of common sense and firm judgment on these matters."

Asked whether he would forgo his £16,000 pay increase for the next three years, he said: "I think I would want to do whatever's important for the country and whatever showed responsibility in the management of our economy."

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DELL

Royal Kung Fu expert floors armed raider

AN ARMED raider who ended up in hospital when he tried to rob a member of the Jordanian Royal Family trained in martial arts was given an automatic life sentence yesterday under the new "two strikes and you're out" law.

When Steven Banks, 32, burst into Abdul Haddy Elshirif's antique and jewellery gallery in Islington, north London, he was little prepared for the response. As he pulled out an imitation semi-automatic handgun, pointed it at Mr Elshirif's wife Justine, 28, and demanded money and jewellery, Dr Elshirif swung into action.

Using the self-defence skills learnt in Moscow and taught to all members of the Hashemite family, Dr Elshirif, a close relation of King Hussein, threw himself at the armed robber. As the pair struggled for control of the gun, Banks smashed Mr Elshirif over the head. With blood pouring down his face, Dr Elshirif managed to keep hold of the gun and throw the robber to the floor amid a shower of broken glass.

But then Banks pulled an axe out of his bag and Dr Elshirif had to again pounce on the robber and use his

Robber who held up Jordanian antiques dealer got more than he expected, reports Adam Fresco

skills stop him from using the weapon. In the ensuing struggle, Banks cut himself on the leg before the axe was wrestled out of his grasp. Harrow Crown Court was told.

Dr Elshirif then used the weapon to subdue the raider, hitting him several times on the knee with the side of the axe blade. As the struggle continued, his wife ran into the street for help and an off-duty police sergeant forced his way through the gallery's security door and arrested an apparently relieved Banks.

kidnappers in Marylebone Road, central London, in 1986. While two of the men opened the rear doors of a van, the others made a grab for the medically-qualified doctor. But after he hurried one into a lamp-post and gave short shrift to the second, they fled.

Speaking after the case yesterday, Dr Elshirif said: "I don't think of myself as a brave man. It is not a big deal at all. Although it's 23 years since I learnt my Kung Fu-type skills, I have always kept fit and as soon as I saw Banks pointing that gun at Justine my first priority was to get the weapon away."

"My training taught me to respond to danger in an almost robotic type way, although I knew exactly what I was doing. I hit him several times on his knee. I carefully controlled my blows so I didn't cause him too much injury."

His wife said: "I was frozen to begin with. I saw the gun, looked at Haddy and couldn't believe it. Then, all of a sudden, Haddy had hold of him, but was still able to shout instructions to me to hit the panic buttons and go for help."



Dr Elshirif and his wife, Justine, at their gallery in London yesterday. Their attacker, Steven Banks, was jailed for life at Harrow Crown Court

what happened when Banks burst into the King Solomons gallery in February. Banks had pointed his pistol at Justine Holmes, 28, who married the antiques dealer according to Islamic tradition two years ago and now works as his assistant. The judge told Banks: "With amazing alacrity and heroism, Dr Elshirif jumped you, grabbed hold of your arm, pulled the gun away and threw you on to the floor. It is clear you chose the wrong person... that day."

"You presumably did not know that as a member of the Hashemite Royal Family he had, in the course of the training which his family was being, been to Moscow and been taught self-defence."

He said that, "notwithstanding his age", Dr Elshirif, a great grandson of a former King of Saudi Arabia, continued to "admirably" apply his combat skills as Banks pulled out his axe.

Banks was sentenced yesterday after changing his plea during his trial. He admitted attempted robbery and possessing an imitation semi-automatic handgun.

It is the first time a robber has been sentenced to life for a second serious violent offence in the London area since the new legislation was introduced in 1997. Banks had received a 10-year prison sentence in 1987 for robbing a security van guard of £7,000 at gunpoint and then stealing a further £25,000 during an armed bank raid, when he fired shots at an off-duty police officer.

Constable denies investigating a WPC's bottom line

By RICHARD DUCE

THE blonde in tight, white trousers became the talk of a police disco after her colleagues learnt that she was wearing "no underwear" at court heard yesterday.

Eventually PC Thomas Reeder, 33, allegedly decided to put the matter to rest and it is claimed, fiddled the 23-year-old WPC from behind saying: "So it's true you haven't got any knickers on, then."

PC Reeder, based at Horsham police station in Sussex, yesterday denied a charge of indecent assault after the alleged incident at the county police headquarters in Lewes in April last year. Brendan Finucane, for the prosecution, told how both PC Reeder and the woman had been on different training sessions at the police headquarters when both attended the end-of-course disco.

The woman, a probationer with one year's service, had discussed with a friend whether she needed to wear underwear beneath her outfit for the evening. She was concerned about showing a pantyline and had decided against wearing anything underneath.

"On any view they were very tight white trousers, very tight," said Mr Finucane. Other friends became aware that the woman was wearing no underwear beneath the hipster trousers and she became the subject of jokes and comments among colleagues.

The woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, told the court that she had drunk about nine Bacardi and cokes



The unnamed victim and PC Thomas Reeder, who is accused of indecently assaulting her at a disco

before she was fondled from behind as she stood talking with a girlfriend at the bar. "I felt a hand start at the base of my spine, rub over my bottom and between my legs. At the same time a voice said: 'So it's true you haven't got any knickers on, then.'"

"I was shocked and very angry," she said of the incident, which lasted about a second.

The woman, who did not complete her training and has since left the force, said she pretended to be friendly as she turned round to confront the man in order to get his name and then to report him. The

man told her that his name was Tom Reeder and that he was based at Horsham. "I don't recall what he was wearing. I hadn't seen him before," Mr Reeder was subsequently arrested and, on legal advice, declined to take part in an identity parade.

Police then filmed the officer arriving at Horsham police station for work and also took footage of eight other men of similar height and build for comparison. When the video was shown to the woman and her friend both of them identified PC Reeder as the alleged assailant.

Damages for injured girl made to do PE

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

A PUPIL who suffered a torn ligament after she was forced to join in a PE lesson despite having an injured ankle has won £1,500 damages from her school.

Corinne Williams, 16, had been given a sick note by her mother because she had a sprained ankle. But teachers at St. Wathn's Comprehensive School in Rotherham, which William Hague attended, accused her of forging the letter and made her participate.

Sheffield County Court awarded the damages after the girl's mother, an orthopaedic nurse, decided to sue the school on her daughter's behalf. Wendy Williams said that the incident, which occurred three years ago, had seriously damaged her daughter's leg. "As a result she tore a ligament, seriously injuring her ankle and has not done PE since then. Since the staff knew we were taking court action, Corinne and her younger sister Rochelle have been victimised by staff and the school has not apologised. They have shown them up in front of other pupils and given them poor reports."

Brian Chapel, the PE adviser to schools for Rotherham Local Education Authority, said: "The number of schools being sued by parents has increased incredibly."

He said many teachers feared playground duty and the threat of legal action could even threaten the future of PE in many schools. In one case, a school was sued after a pupil slipped on damp grass. The teacher had voluntarily been taking the lesson in her own time after school.

Bank woman harassed client

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A WOMAN bank official began a campaign of harassment against a client after they had a night together, a court was told yesterday. Angela Reid, 40, an assistant manager at the TSB, spent six months pursuing Simon Butler, a divorced restaurateur.

Reid admitted harassing the 33-year-old owner of The Stables Brasserie in Talbot Green, near Pontypridd, South Wales, and sending threatening and abusive letters to his colleagues, relatives and his ex-wife.

David Wooler, for the prosecution, told Pontypridd magistrates: "She circulated a photograph of him with the words 'no good bastard' written on it and sent letters to his ex-wife and parents saying he took drugs and drank too much."

Reid met Mr Butler six years ago when

he opened a mortgage account at the Talbot Green branch of the TSB. Mr Wooler said: "There had been continuous business dealing between them. After his marriage failed, Mr Butler contacted her about buying a new house. Reid asked to go to see the house with him." Later she had gone to his parents' house where they had had a lot to drink and "ended in bed together."

After their one night together, Reid had begun ringing Mr Butler every day, although he had told her he did not wish to pursue the relationship.

Mr Wooler said: "He changed his number and went ex-directory after three months but she found it. The calls then became more threatening. She said she would tell his father they had slept together and she sent letters to his ex-wife.

She telephoned him persistently at home and at work for six months."

Gareth Emery, for Reid, said: "She is a pleasant and honourable lady who would never normally appear in court. She has suffered tremendously because of this case and is terrified at the prospect of prison." He said she could lose her job after 24 years working for the TSB if she was sent to prison.

Reid, of Creigiau, near Cardiff, was given a conditional discharge and ordered to pay £30 costs after Vivian Manning-Davies, the magistrate, said: "The loss of your career would be a price too high to pay."

He imposed a restraining order to stop her making contact with Mr Butler, adding: "This was a nasty offence which caused a lot of distress."

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Modern facade for old structure

Prince to accommodate all of his architectural organisations under one roof, writes Alan Hamilton

THE Prince of Wales has called a truce in his war against the caribuncles of modern building by announcing the creation of an architectural foundation that will direct its fire more at town planners than builders.

The Foundation for Architecture and the Urban Environment will attempt to breathe new life into the Prince's troubled Institute of Architecture, which went through five directors in six years and whose glossy magazine Perspectives was forced to close.

The Prince, who offers some of his modified architectural thoughts in today's issue of The Spectator, says his new body will be "modern, but not modernist". Its values and culture "will respect traditional techniques

in the disciplines of architecture, design and the building arts but will also encourage innovation and utterly modern applications of these skills."

The foundation will be housed in an old fur warehouse in Shoreditch, East London, and will bring together all the Prince's architecture-inspired organisations, including his School of Architecture and the Building Arts, the Urban Villages Forum and Regeneration Through Heritage.

A spokesman for the Prince denied that the new organisation represented a victory for modernists over the Prince's championing of traditional building styles. "The Prince's views on architecture and the urban environment are wider than is



Sainsbury wing: the first plan was a "carbuncle"

interpreted. He welcomes contemporary work where it reflects the surrounding environment."

The new foundation has been set up largely with financial help from sympathetic organisations in the United States, which have contributed heavily to buying the freehold of the premises for £2.1 million and are ploughing in £2.5 million to renovate the building. Plans include a ground floor open to the public, with a café, bookshop, gallery, exhibition space and rooms for meetings, workshops and lectures.

The Prince has been disappointed by the lack of support from architects and the public for a number of his pet bobbyhorses and hates, which included the first proposed design for the extension to the National Gallery - his original "carbuncle" - and the redeveloped site at Number One Poultry in the City.

Dobson admits nurses need more pay

Health Secretary wants to see controversial system of staged increases abandoned, reports Jill Sherman

FRANK DOBSON called yesterday for pay rises for nurses and made clear that he wants to abandon the system of staged pay increases that has infuriated the profession over the past four years. The Health Secretary said he recognised that salaries were a crucial factor in attracting new recruits to nursing after a survey showed a 15 per cent drop in the number of students entering nursing courses since 1994. His pledge for higher pay seemed at odds with Gordon Brown's determination to keep down public sector pay awards, but the Treasury said that any increase would have to come out of the spending totals agreed in July. Although Mr Dobson warned that he could not guarantee above-

inflation pay increases for which nurses have called, he said that he sympathised with their demands. Mr Dobson said: "I do agree that we need to increase nurses' pay and that will be a matter for the independent pay review body. I hope that, between us, we will be able to get a settlement that won't need to be staged and which results in us being able to recruit and retain nurses." In the past four years both Labour and the Tories have effectively reduced annual pay awards recommended by the nurses' pay review body by staging the awards. In Opposition, Labour condemned phasing the awards until the last

year before the general election. The Government infuriated nurses leaders this year by also phasing the awards. Mr Dobson pledged in last month's comprehensive spending review to give the NHS an extra 15,000 nurses to treat three million patients and open up 6,000 new training places over the next three years. Figures from the English Nursing Board, however, show there were 45,589 nurses training in Britain in March 1998, some 2,447 less than last year. The overall number of trainees has fallen by 8,188 since 1994. Mr Dobson yesterday emphasised that more nurses could be

recruited through flexible contracts and extending nurses responsibilities to include prescribing. "We are guaranteeing there will be jobs for everybody who is coming out of training. We are also going to get people, particularly women, back into nursing who have come out of nursing," he said. The Royal College of Nursing, the profession's main union, immediately warned the Government that, although the overall package was welcome, there was only one issue that would significantly boost interest - money. Christine Hancock, the RCN's general secretary, said: "Mr Dobson clearly understands that pay is

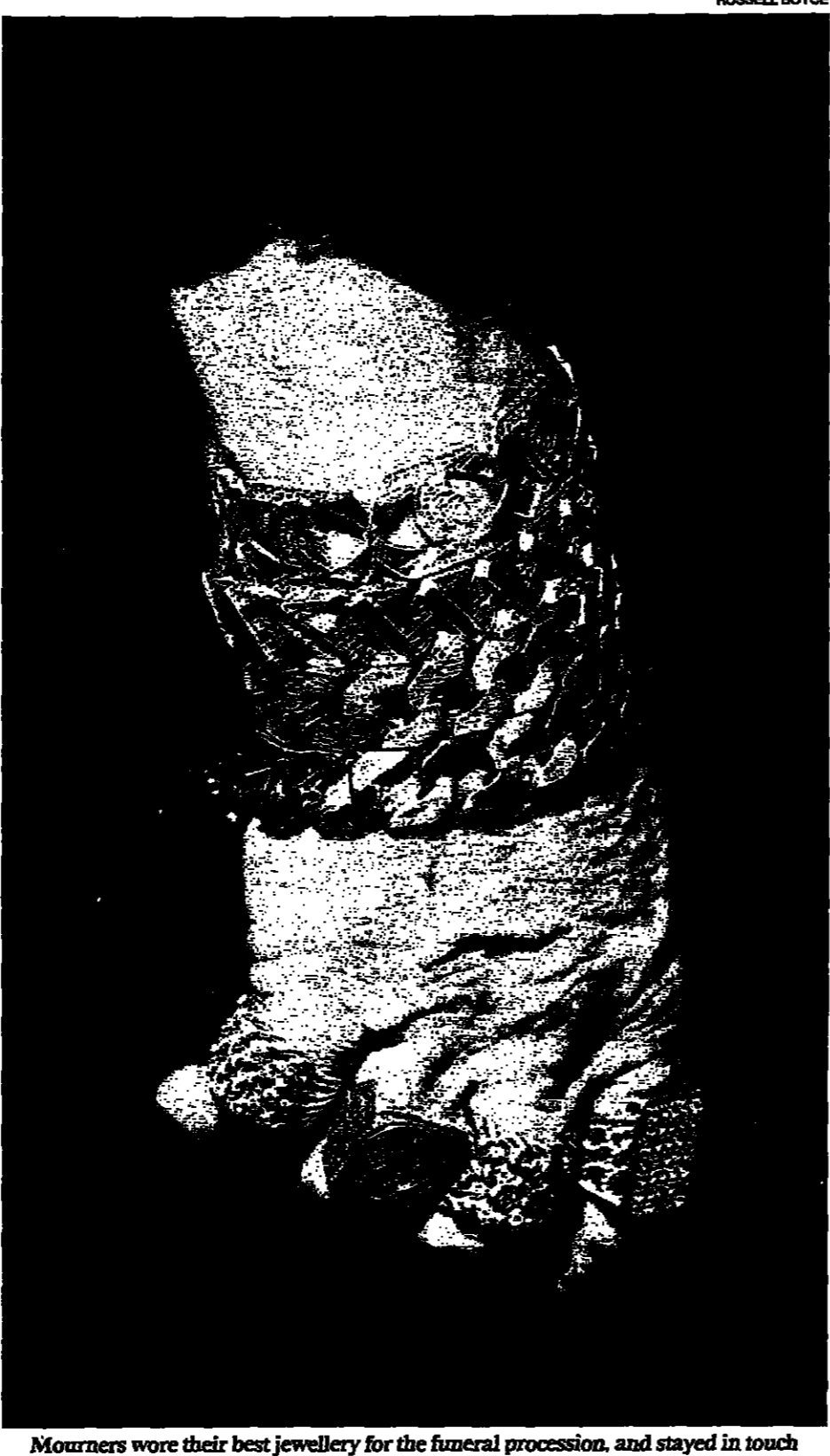
a crucial factor in tackling the nursing shortage crisis. We welcome the Secretary of State's desire to see an end to staged awards, but the real issue is pay. "Nurses must be paid in line with people in similar professions, otherwise they will continue to leave nursing or not enter in the first place." Ann Widdecombe, Shadow health spokeswoman, accused Mr Dobson of "running away from reality". Citing the comprehensive spending review pledges, she said: "He owes the public an explanation as to where these nurses are coming from." Men are a small minority in the

nursing profession but are significantly more likely to win promotion than women, according to the largest survey yet of NHS staff. The findings also reveal very low morale among staff. Replies from the 14,330 nurses and midwives who took part in the survey by the Policy Studies Institute showed men progressing better than women despite being less experienced and having poorer qualifications. Louise Finlayson, a research fellow at the institute and co-author of the report, said the findings "suggest that the problem of gender inequalities in nursing careers is more fundamental than shattering the glass ceiling. Disadvantage for women is present at relatively junior positions and becomes greater as seniority increases". Although only 7 per cent of nurses are men, the survey shows they are twice as likely to be in the most senior grades and they have higher expectations of being promoted. One reason is that women are more likely to be employed part-time, with 45 per cent working less than 35 hours a week compared with only 5 per cent of the men. Women also surrender seniority and promotion prospects when they take a break to raise a family. Men also benefit from the fact that they tend to concentrate in specialities where there is a greater chance of promotion.

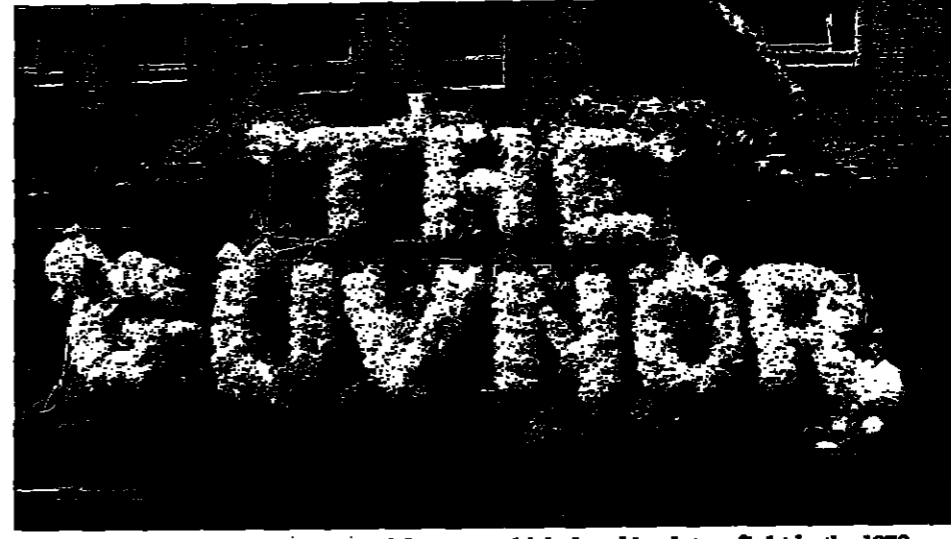
Trust appeals for £3m after winning fight for Snowdon

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE National Trust is to buy a third of Mount Snowdon after beating off several rival bids, including at least one from abroad. The charity immediately started a public appeal to raise more than £3 million to complete the acquisition of 4,118 acres of land on the southern flank of Snowdon, at 3,560ft the highest mountain in England and Wales. It has 100 days to raise the money. The land, consisting of two large sheep farms, the Hafody-Llan and Gelli Iago estates, was put up for auction by Richard Williams early last month. It includes the summit of Cnicht, known as the Welsh Matterhorn. Mr Williams, whose ancestors began farming one of the estates in the 17th century, said the decision to sell, which had caused him "much heart-ache", would enable him to concentrate on running another farm on Anglesey. Confirmation of the sale, which has been widely welcomed, was announced at a ceremony yesterday on Snowdon and at the National Eisteddfod field at Bridgend, in South Wales. The money will be raised under the trust's existing Snowdonia Appeal. Its president, the actor Sir Anthony Hopkins, said he was wholeheartedly behind the purchase. "There is no time to lose and every contribution will count," he said. "Snowdon is an important part of our Welsh heritage. Together we must ensure its future for everyone to enjoy." The trust refused to disclose the exact sale price, which is thought to be about £3.25 million, but said it was hoping eventually to raise up to £4 million to cover purchase, future management and upkeep. Peter Broomhead, the trust's director for Wales, said: "It is a complicated deal, involving the purchase of land and stock, and some details remain to be tied up." Richard Cuthbertson, chairman of the National Trust Committee for Wales, said the Earl of Snowdon, a vice-president of the Snowdonia Appeal, had given his support to the project. "It is a wonderful outcome for the National Trust in Wales but, more importantly, it is a wonderful outcome for Wales," Mr Cuthbertson said. Chris Brasher, the former athlete, issued a challenge to all mountaineering and climbing clubs to contribute to the appeal and said the Chris Brasher Trust would be making an initial donation of £200,000. "For every pound you contribute, we will add another pound," he said. Carter Jonas, who handled the sale, said it had received expressions of interest from more than 100 individuals and charitable institutions, some from Canada, Ireland, Switzerland and the United States, but they came down to four serious bids. The trust already owns just over 9 per cent of Snowdonia National Park, which covers 8,040 square miles.



Mourners wore their best jewellery for the funeral procession, and stayed in touch



Flowers picked out McLean's nickname, which dated back to a fight in the 1970s

Hard man of the East End bows out in style

THE East End of London paid a fond farewell yesterday to a prizefighter and nightclub bouncer known as the hardest man in Britain. Lenny McLean, nicknamed The Gun'nor, died last week after suffering from cancer for four months. He was 49.

At his funeral - a traditional affair with a black carriage pulled by four black plumed horses - East Enders paid tribute to a man known for his sense of humour as much as his merciless fists. "If Ronnie Kray has opened a nightclub in Heaven, Lenny's on the gate," said Lee Martin, who was representing Charlie Kray. Another well-known hard man, the footballer Vinnie Jones, who had recently worked with McLean on the film *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*, said: "He commanded respect from everyone on the set, from the tea girls to the big actors. He was like an uncle to everyone." As the funeral cortege of limousines laden with floral tributes, together with a host of Mercedes, Bentleys and Rolls-Royces, headed along streets lined with people to the



McLean unbeaten in 3,000 fights

"His sense of humour was terrific and he was a good family man. He loved his wife, he loved his kids. He was a fighting man, but he did his fighting in the ring, whether bare-knuckled or with gloves." Helen Keating, another friend from the East End, said: "He was always smiling and his song was always *Look on the Bright Side of Life*, which he sang to a judge when he was found not guilty at the Old Bailey six years ago." McLean was acquitted of murder after punching a man who was causing trouble in a London nightclub. The man later died. McLean was jailed for 18 months for causing actual bodily harm. Ms Keating remembers the fights - 3,000 undefeated bouts in a career lasting over 20 years - as "gory, relentless and full of blood". Winnie Brooks, the former landlady of The King's Arms in Hoxton, where McLean was born and from where the funeral procession set off, said of him: "Everyone knew Lenny. A lot of people around here will miss him."

Some accounts with high interest rates can soon prove to be a letdown.

7.25% GUARANTEED to match rises in Base Rate

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McCartney takes over wife's crusade on animal rights

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

SIR Paul McCartney pledged yesterday to take over the campaigning role of his late wife in *Animal Times*, which will be published in September in English, German and Dutch, Sir Paul, who is involved with both groups, said: "I want people to be reassured that we're going to keep this torch burning. Because I had the luxury of Linda taking the front role on animal issues, some people would occasionally make out that I wasn't really committed and that I was a secret meat-eater in the background." "Just to prove that's not the case, I thought, rather than do some general interviews about how much I miss her, which the newspapers would like, I should do it with the Peta [People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals] magazine because that's where it's at. "I'm grieving. But I say to the kids, we have to look at the blessings and replace all the bad memories with good ones." *Animal Times*, which will be sent to 600,000 members of Peta, has increased its print run by 20 per cent, giving it a potential windfall of £1,440,000. *VivaLife*, which is sold to members of the Vegetarians International Voice For Animals at £12 a year, has doubled its August print run of 10,000, giving it a possible £120,000.

Curbs eased on casino adverts

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

CASINOS are to be allowed to advertise in national newspapers under plans aimed at easing restrictions on the gaming industry. The changes will enable casinos to place adverts in the press, listings magazines and holiday guides, but the bar will remain on television, cinema or radio advertising. The Government is also to allow people to apply to become members of casinos by post or fax, instead of just in person, as a way of helping tourists to seek membership before they arrive. The gaming board has issued guidelines to reduce the risk of large scale "junkie" gambling in which organised trips are made to clubs. Hospitality is not to be used to encourage players to gamble beyond their means and casino operators are to be barred from subsidising travel and accommodation costs. Another move announced in a consultation paper will allow members of one casino to qualify automatically to join another owned by the same company. George Howarth, a Home Office minister, said the moves would be introduced in the autumn. "Easier access to membership, and limited advertising will help meet the demands of a modern casino industry while maintaining adequate controls."

£10m to put company name on Tube

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE first sight to greet visitors to the Millennium Dome could be a company logo emblazoned on the nearest London Underground sign. The North Greenwich Tube station, which is expected to bring at least nine million tourists to the exhibition in 2000, is being offered to a single commercial sponsor for £10 million. The deal is the chance to get an advertiser's name included in the Underground's "bull's eye" logo. "You could have 'Cadbury's North Greenwich' or 'Firestone North Greenwich'," said a spokesman for TDI, the media company that handles advertising on the Tube network. "Never before has London Underground allowed its logo to be changed." The amendment of the logo alone will cost £4 million. On top of that is a sponsorship package involving the most technologically advanced advertising seen in a Tube station, including laser light shows and animated posters. The sponsor will have an exclusive shop at the station. There will also be a VIP lounge, with views of the Dome. Included in the package is the sponsor wishes to entertain corporate guests or host conferences at the Tube station. The sponsorship deal runs throughout 1999 and 2000. One snag is that the station, on the Jubilee Line extension, is not expected to open until at least next spring, a year behind schedule. During the first few months of next year, the space will instead be used for an exhibition of London Transport's achievements and will feature information "pods" telling children about the past and future of travel. North Greenwich is part of a transport interchange designed by the architect Sir Norman Foster. It is equipped to handle 24 Tube trains, 76 buses and 180 taxis an hour. The New Millennium Experience Company, which is still about £50 million short of the £150 million private sponsorship needed for the event, will receive nothing from the deal.



North Greenwich is scheduled to open in spring 1999

Hotel industry warms to promise of sunshine

THE tourism industry basked in the sun yesterday as weathermen predicted a sustained heatwave with temperatures as high as 86F (30C).

With holidaymakers flocking to the resorts for the first spell of fine weather since May, the British Hoteliers Association said soaring temperatures could save hotels and businesses from losing millions of pounds and shedding jobs.

The forecasters are confident of up to five days of summer sun and hotels report that they have been inundated with a spate of bookings as a result.

Miles Quest, the association's spokesman, said: "It might just save things. There are a lot of hotels that have not been having a very happy time and this weather, if it lasts long enough, could be just what we need. Because the weather has been so bad a lot of people have already decided to go abroad but we are all just

Forecast of heatwave and spate of holiday bookings could save jobs, writes Michael Horsnell

keeping our fingers crossed that this weather will pick people's spirits up and tempt them to UK resorts."

From Newquay to Brighton, holidaymakers were filling bed and breakfast establishments and campsites yesterday in an enthusiastic resolve to make the most of the sunny spell.

The Royal Bath Hotel in Bournemouth said it had very few rooms vacant, ranging from £35 to £143 per person, after a surge of bookings in the past 24 hours. A spokeswoman for the hotel said: "On Saturday night there is only one room left. It has suddenly got very, very busy."

Yesterday the temperature reached 26C (79F) at 4pm at

Heathrow. A weather centre spokesman said: "There have been plenty of other readings of 25C (77F) and 24C (75F) in the South East and generally the weather as far north as Lincolnshire has been warm and sunny. It's been a little cloudier in the North and there has been the odd shower in southwest Scotland, but it's been 19C (66F) as far north as Aberdeen."

He said temperatures were expected to soar as high as 30C (86F) in the South over the weekend. It would again be cooler with the occasional shower further north and there could be the "odd drop" of rain at Leeds during the fifth and final Test match between England and South

Africa. Weathermen were unimpressed by claims that snow fell on Tuesday evening in the Lake District. Five separate callers to a Cumbria radio station were adamant they had seen snow. The calls came from the Penrith and Keswick areas.

Mark Allen, a BBC Radio Cumbria producer, said: "We received one call saying there had been snow and didn't take much notice. But there were a total of five calls all saying that it had definitely been snowing."

A spokesman at the Newcastle Weather Centre said: "As far as we are concerned, it is meteorologically impossible. The temperature in that area yesterday evening was 57F. With temperatures like that, there is no way it could have snowed. They must have been mistaken."

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Forecast, page 22

Why it always rains at weekends

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

WHY does it always rain at the weekend, only to brighten up as soon as Monday dawns? Two American scientists say that it is all our own fault.

Man-made pollution, which reaches a peak in urban areas late in the week, apparently influences the timing of rainfall downward a day or so later, say Randall Cerveny and Robert Balling Jr. of Arizona State University.

They have studied data from the Eastern Seaboard of the United States and identified seven-day cycles of pollution and rainfall that can only be caused by human activity. "The human week is not a natural time period," said Dr Balling. "Human effect on the weather is the only explanation."

They report in *Nature* that the weekly pollution cycle has been noted in many big cities, including New York and Philadelphia. The trend is for

pollution, measured by levels of carbon monoxide and ozone, to rise during the week to a peak on Thursdays, before declining again.

Nobody is quite sure why this happens, but the suspicion is that it is caused by different patterns of car driving on different days of the week. They showed that the patterns were more than pure-

ly local by measuring carbon monoxide and ozone levels at Sable Island, off the coast of Nova Scotia, 800 miles to the east of the big US cities. For the period between July 1991 and January 1995, Sable Island data showed the weekly rise and fall in pollution, with the peak occurring at the end of the week, on Thursday and Friday. Data for shorter peri-

ods from Seal Island, Nova Scotia; Cape Race, Newfoundland; and Bermuda show the same cycle.

They then looked at rainfall data collected by weather satellites over a 17-year period from 1979 to 1995. For the oceans as a whole, they found no weekly pattern in rainfall: averaged over the 17 years, each day of the week gets one seventh of the weekly rainfall.

But in the area of the Atlantic lying just off the Eastern Seaboard, a distinctive pattern emerged, with Saturday getting 22 per cent more rain than Monday. The average for Saturdays was 25.9 inches, while that for Mondays was 21.2 inches. "If you're going out boating in the Atlantic, you're going to get wet if it's a weekend," said Dr Cerveny. "And what we suggest is that this is probably linked to the pollution cycle."

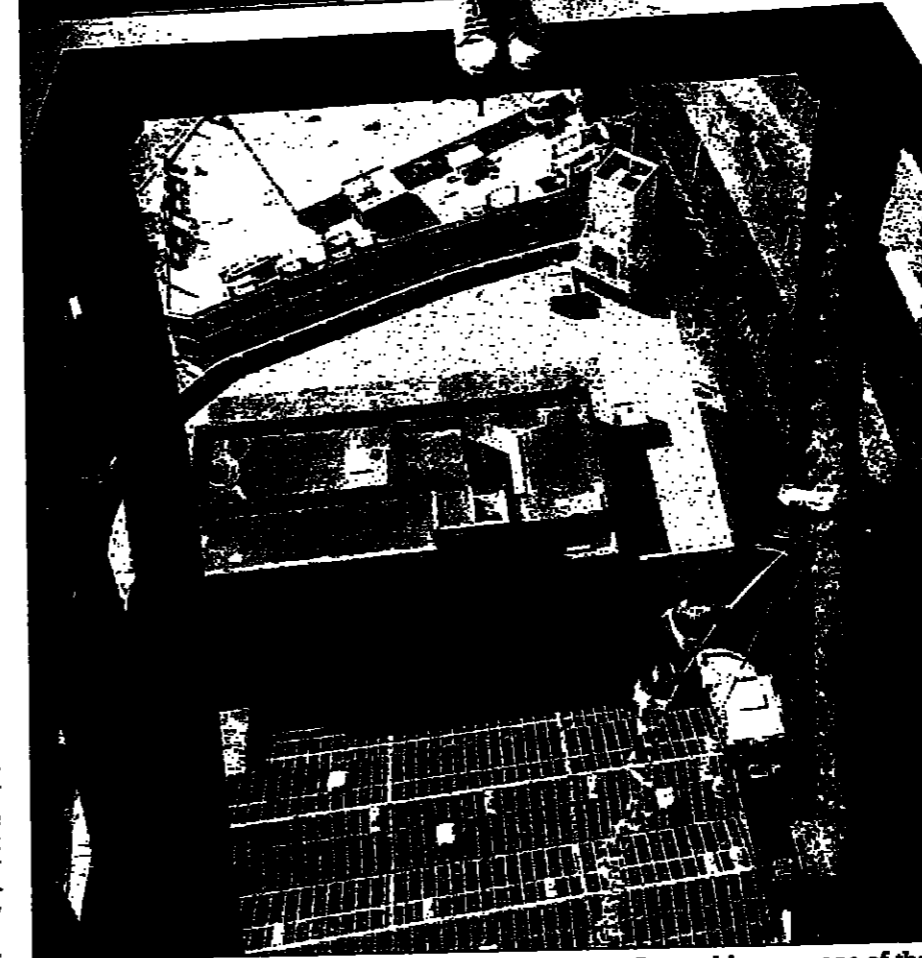
How that link operates is not clear, but pollution is probably acting to "seed" clouds and encourage rain.

COOLER SUMMERS SAVE LIVES

Grey skies save lives, a survey of death rates in the hottest July and August in England and Wales on record found. During the five hottest days of 1995 there were almost 9 per cent more deaths than would have been expected; pollution meant the figure reached 16 per cent in London.

Researchers from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine compared the rate during the heatwave from July 28 to August 3 with the normal rate for that period and calculated that 788 more people had died than might have been expected. Taking into account that the average temperature for 1995 was higher than normal, there were 493 more deaths than might have been expected.

The heat combined with pollutants to cause respiratory and circulatory problems, responsible for 62 per cent of excess deaths, and the elderly were at particular risk.



Walking on air: Kathrine Shilston, 9, from Preston, Lancashire, was one of the first to try Blackpool Tower's latest attraction yesterday. The Walk of Faith, a glass floor 385ft above ground, is 5cm thick and can take the weight of five baby elephants

Anti-rabies law for pets to be challenged

By Michael Horsnby
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S anti-rabies quarantine rules are to be challenged in the High Court, which might lead to their being declared illegal under European Union law.

Campaigners against quarantine claimed yesterday that if the action succeeded pet owners would immediately be able to travel to Britain with animals that had been certified as rabies-free.

At present cats and dogs entering Britain have to be kept in solitary confinement in approved quarantine kennels for six months. Only a small number of pedigree animals imported for breeding are exempt. No other country has such stringent rules.

The Quarantine Abolition Fighting Fund said it had raised about £40,000 from its members to pay for a judicial review of the Ministry of Agriculture's refusal to allow a Swedish man to bring his cat to Britain. June Hamilton, who chairs the fund, said: "Leave to apply for a review was granted in February. We are waiting for a date for our case to be heard, but are hopeful it will be before the early autumn."

The campaigners maintain that the Ministry of Agriculture acted in breach of Article 30 of the Treaty of Rome, which upholds the right to free movement within the EU for citizens and their goods. The latter classification includes cats and dogs.

"The Swedish cat provides a good test case," Mrs Hamilton said. "It had been vaccinated, implanted with an identity chip and tested for rabies antibodies. Sweden has been free of rabies since the last century, longer than Britain."

The Swedish cat, called His Imperial Highness Tiggy, is owned by Matt Geiden von Schwarzenburg, a Swede who makes regular visits to London. He is one of the fund's 2,500 members in 37 countries who each pay an annual subscription of £35.



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Why Cowes is in the shade

Princes' absence is further evidence
of the yachting regatta's declining
prestige, writes Deborah Colclutt

COWES WEEK is being overhauled amid fears that the annual sailing regatta is losing international prestige. Organisers' concerns over the fall in entries to the Admiral's Cup event were compounded yesterday by dismay that the Prince of Wales and his sons, Princes William and Harry, had declined an invitation to the regatta in favour of a yachting trip in the Mediterranean. At a private meeting at the Royal Yacht Squadron between the Duke of Edinburgh and John Bowker, chairman of the Isle of Wight council, who is a friend of the Duke, the "delicate issue" of encouraging the young generation of royals to attend Cowes was raised once again. "We lost the Royal Yacht Britannia, and Cowes Week would really benefit from the patronage of William and Harry," said Mr Bowker. "Of course it's sad when one sees them setting off boating in the Mediterranean."

The Duke retired from competing at Cowes last year. The Prince of Wales and his sons flew out to Greece on Tuesday for a cruise aboard the billionaire John Latsis's yacht. Members of the Isle of Wight council and friends of the Duke have broached the subject of his grandsons' holiday destinations in the past. Bill West, marketing director of the sponsors of Cowes Week, Skandia Life, said: "The regatta would benefit from the active involvement of the Royal Family. Prince Philip was instrumental in ushering in a new era at Cowes and we would be delighted if William and Harry would show an interest." The Princess Royal, a keen sailor, is expected to join the Duke and Prince Michael of Kent today aboard John Paul Getty's yacht, *Talitha G*, for a few days' racing. The Prince of Wales is said to have been put off Cowes as a child when the Duke's friend, the sailor Uffa Fox, forced him to tack around the



Reflecting on past glory: a spectator at Cowes yesterday. Race entries are down, as is royal participation

harbour for hours because he could not perfect the technique.

With fewer foreign competitors at Cowes this year, and a big fall in the number of teams entering the Admiral's Cup, the organisers have been forced into making changes to

cut costs and raise the event's international profile.

As well as various technical improvements, the Admiral's Cup, which is held every other year and formerly overlapped with Cowes Week, has been rescheduled to earlier in the summer. A restricted design

class has been added to the event to make it cheaper for entrants and a £1 charter deal negotiated by organisers to spare competitors the cost of shipping the yachts, crews and equipment to Britain. Janet Grosvenor, deputy race director of the Royal Ocean Racing Club, said: "We have also condensed the race from three weeks into two."

Alan Green, the race director, is in Spain whipping up support for next year's race, and organisers say a number of countries have expressed interest in taking part.

Back in Cowes, the sailor responsible for recruiting the British team, Harold Cudmore, gave a warning against complacency. "I have been a regular critic of the RORC. It was necessary to make sub-

stantial changes otherwise the event will die. It has been losing scale and you cannot survive on quality alone."

Only seven teams took part in the Admiral's Cup last year, although it is traditionally seen as the unofficial world championship of offshore races. "Personally, I would have been more radical," Mr Cudmore said.

There are three racing classes in the race. The big yachts need a crew of about 60 and it is usual to have dietitians, fitness trainers and technical experts on board. The sailors, in contrast to Cowes, are professional and are paid by the sponsors or boat-owners to participate.

It costs more than £1.5 million to transport the large

ful. Here they're eating pig-roast in a bun on the marina."

Chris Troup, the Deputy Mayor of Cowes, is also concerned. Cowes Week brings in a revenue of £16 million to the Isle of Wight, traditionally a place of high unemployment.

Mr McCallum reported a drop in bookings from overseas visitors this year. "The Germans and the Dutch just aren't coming, mainly because of the strong pound. Guests I have been receiving here for years haven't turned up. We need better marketing and we need to advertise for these events and never assume people will just come to Cowes because they always have."



The Prince of Wales at Cowes in 1978. He has declined an invitation this year

ful. Here they're eating pig-roast in a bun on the marina."

Race report, page 42

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Paradise regained in Turner's rural idyll



The former Derwenthaugh Cokeworks in operation

A valley polluted by industry has been restored to beauty that took artist's eye, writes Paul Wilkinson

AN IDYLIC valley painted by Turner has been restored to its former beauty after being laid waste by generations of industrial pollution.

Seven years and £13 million have been spent on restoring the Derwent Valley at Swalwell, near Gateshead. Where once a two million cubic metre spoil heap stood, picnickers can again enjoy the view. Where poisonous lagoons of chemical slurry oozed into the river, kingfishers and roe deer now feed.

In 1817, when Turner visited the nearby Gillside estate, once ancestral home to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's family, he was able to paint two views of a picturesque country scene by the Derwent. But the valley in his pictures, on display today in the Bowes Museum in Co Durham, was already changing.

It was one of the earliest sites of British steelmaking, established long before Sheffield, and is still regarded by English Heritage as a site of

national archaeological importance. Iron had been worked near by since 1690, when Sir Ambrose Crowley set up his Winstan Ironworks, Europe's first integrated manufacturing plant, pioneering the idea of putting raw materials in one end and taking finished goods from the other. The works were in continuous operation for 150 years, supplying mainly the Royal Navy.

In the 1840s they were demolished to make way for a Victorian steel rolling mill, which itself was replaced in 1928 by the Derwenthaugh Cokeworks. The works sprawled across more than 100 acres and included a chemical plant, workshops, coke and coal storage dumps and the Goodshieldsthaugh spoil tip that dumped waste on the meadow painted by Turner. The artist's lush glade was contaminated with pools of toxic fluid containing arsenic, cyanide, benzene and naphtha leaching into the Derwent.

For almost 60 years the plant belched fumes across the valley night and day as it turned 650,000 tonnes of coal into coke every year. The clouds from the plant were so thick that signs warned motorists of the danger.

The plant closed in 1985 and the site was subsequently bought by Gateshead Metropolitan Council, which started the clean-up in 1991, aided by



The Derwent Valley at Swalwell today, compared with Turner's watercolour of 1817. Malcolm Graham, of Gateshead council, described the restoration as a minor miracle

English Partnerships, the government regeneration agency, which invested £11.9 million.

Enough waste to fill 100,000 lorries was removed, reducing the spoil heap by half. An underground wall was built to cut off contaminated areas from the river and an extraction plant installed to remove toxic fumes.

A treatment plant cleaned the contaminated water and those pollutants that could not be removed were sealed in with clay, crushed concrete and a PVC liner.

The area was landscaped to create 125 acres of parkland. Now renamed Derwenthaugh Park, it includes bridleways, a fishing lake, a golf course and



picnic areas. The banks of the once-toxic river are home to kingfishers, dippers, woodpeckers, squirrels, badgers and roe deer.

Malcolm Graham, the



chairman of Gateshead's planning committee, who oversaw the project, said: "I believe the transformation is some kind of minor miracle. As a youngster I saw with my

own eyes the smoke and filth belching out of the cokeworks and I am so proud to see the valley back to its natural state of beauty today.

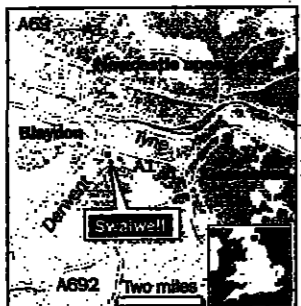
"We have cleared the valley and put it back to what it was like in the 1700s. You can now walk up the valley and hear the birds sing. Nature will look after itself now that we have given it a helping hand."

Elizabeth Conran, the curator of Bowes Museum, said: "When Turner painted the valley it was so beautiful and the trees were mature, as they had been planted about 100 years earlier.

"But, after that, there was a lot of tremendous industrial development there and eventually the area became deserted. It is a relief to get rid of any eyesore and, if an area can be restored to its pre-industrial state, then that is even better. Turner's works are very popu-

lar and the two watercolours more so because they have a local connection."

Jonathan Blackie, regional director of English Partnerships, said: "The transformation of Derwenthaugh from cokeworks to parkland has been a lengthy task. The creation of these recreational facilities will benefit the whole community and help to boost the local economy by attracting tourists."



ARTISTS' BRITAIN

In The Times from Monday



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10 HOME NEWS

Airbags pose risk to short drivers and children

AIRBAGS save lives in road accidents, but they can also kill or cause serious injuries. Drivers under about 5ft 2in are particularly at risk, as are children travelling in the front seats.

A study published today in the *Postgraduate Medical Journal* found that two drivers who were killed when their car airbags inflated after low-speed crashes were both wearing seatbelts that would probably have been enough to save their lives.

Eight children were also killed in low-speed crashes that they might otherwise have survived. Two of them, aged five and six, died from head injuries caused by the rapid inflation of the airbags. A 20-day-old baby placed in a rear-facing child safety seat in the front was killed when the passenger-side airbag was inflated. Such seats put the child closer to the airbag, greatly increasing the risk. "It

Hospital study shows that speed of inflation is the main danger to occupants, writes Ian Murray

is vital to make parents aware of this danger and advise them not to fit rear-facing infant restraints in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger-side airbag," say the researchers, from the accident and emergency department of the Whittington Hospital at Highgate, North London. "All child safety seats should ideally be placed on the back seat."

The researchers analysed 50 airbag-related injuries. They found that eyes were damaged

by the alkaline chemicals used to inflate the bags, upper limbs dislocated, arms and spines broken, rib cages smashed and lungs pierced.

The greatest danger comes from the speed at which the bags are fired into the car and inflate. This is done automatically within 0.05 seconds of an impact, when a sensor located in the front bumper triggers an electrical signal that shoots the bag out of its container in the steering wheel or dashboard; it is inflated by an aerosol.

The airbag has a volume of about 60 litres and is propelled out of its compartment at speeds of up to 200mph in a whip-like fashion. It begins to deflate almost immediately, through vents and pores in its lining, to prevent the seat occupant bouncing off.

To reach the pedals, short drivers sit very close to the steering wheel, where the airbag is concealed, so that it



The researchers recommend sitting as far away as possible from the airbag container to minimise the impact

hits them in the face at high velocity while it is still expanding. "The severity of injury seemed to be directly related to the proximity of the driver to the rapidly inflating airbag," the researchers say. "The driver's seat should be as far away from the steering wheel as possible, with the necessary

pedal modification for short people — ie, a higher pedal." Eye damage was among the most common injuries; again, short people were most at risk. The airbags caused detached retinas, cut corneas and bruising, while the propellant caused chemical burns. Dislocated joints and fractures have

all been recorded. The researchers say that injuries could be reduced if the threshold for deploying airbags was increased and if they were made of less abrasive materials. They also call for better methods of venting airbag gases.

Airbags are compulsory in

the United States, probably because so few drivers there fasten their seatbelts. While there is, as yet, no legislation planned in Britain to make airbags obligatory, the study urges the public and the medical profession to learn more about them to minimise the dangers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Women remanded over crop damage

Two women charged with causing £605,000 damage to an area of experimental genetically modified maize have been remanded on bail.

Jacqueline Sheedy, 33, and Elizabeth Snook, 21, appeared at Kingsbridge Magistrates' Court in Devon, charged with damaging the crop belonging to Sharps (Advanta) and the National Institute of Agricultural Biology. They were arrested in connection with an alleged incident at a crop trial site near Dartington, Devon, on Monday.

Murder charge

A postman accused of shooting dead a Royal Mail manager and trying to kill another employee was remanded in custody by Shrewsbury magistrates. James Robinson, 27, of Ellesmere, Shropshire, was charged with murder and attempted murder.

Police suspension

A policeman has been suspended from duty after an alleged road-rage attack on a woman motorist. The 28-year-old officer, who has not been named but is based in Gloucester, was off duty when the alleged incident happened in Cirencester.

Siege arsenal

A man who barricaded himself inside his home in Shropshire for five days over a dispute involving council tax had 26 hunting rifles and four shotguns, police said. George Andrews, of Buttonoak, who was in custody yesterday, held the guns legally.

Assailant jailed

A man who beat up a driving examiner after failing his test at the third attempt was jailed for nine months at Manchester Crown Court. Horace Campbell, 30, punched Peter Oatway repeatedly about the head and body. He admitted assault and affray.

Naked protest

Vincent Beihell, a fine arts student accused of vandalising a Rembrandt painting at the National Gallery, stripped naked at Bow Street Magistrates' Court after he was ordered to see a psychiatrist. The 26-year-old will appear in court next Tuesday.

It is unusual

A policeman whose hi-fi had been stolen traced it after seeing a suspicious newspaper advertisement. When PC Mark Ranger paid an off-duty call to the advertiser's home, posing as a buyer, his Tom Jones CD was still in the hi-fi. A man has been charged.

Student is fined over speed-trap jammers

By A CORRESPONDENT

A STUDENT who sold devices that claimed to jam radar speed traps was fined £3,000 yesterday.

A disgruntled customer called in trading standards officers after the £250 jammer he had bought from Thomas Goolnick, a business studies student at Northampton College, failed to work.

Yesterday Goolnick, 23, the sole director of TBS Industries, a company he set up to sell the devices, admitted applying a false trade description and a common law offence of inciting motorists to exceed the speed limit.

Northampton magistrates were told Goolnick imported the jammers from America and used his student loan to pay £550 for a full-page advertisement in a car magazine headlined "No more speed traps — jam them". It said cars would be "totally invisible to all major speed traps".

Tests showed the dashboard-mounted Mirage 2001's jamming range reached just 1.3 metres — no further than the end of the bonnet. Speaking afterwards, Brian Lewin, a trading standards officer, said it was the first time a company had been fined for inciting motorists to break the limit.

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Royal connection cost Somme general his job

Papers reveal why Haig ruined an officer's career, report Valerie Elliott and Stephen Farrell

A FIRST World War general removed from his command after the first day of the Battle of the Somme had enraged his superior officers by writing personal reports from the front to George V, it was disclosed yesterday.

Major-General Edward James Montagu-Stuart-Wortley later protested to Winston Churchill, then Secretary of State for War, that he had been made the scapegoat for the British Army's failure to take Gommecourt, a strong German position to the north of the main Somme offensive, on July 1, 1916. Papers deposited at the Public Record Office in Kew reveal intense personal ill-feeling between him and General Sir Douglas — later Earl — Haig, the Commander-in-Chief.

Eton-educated Stuart-Wortley, a peer's grandson, had joined the Army in 1877 and served in the second Afghan War, Natal and Egypt before arriving at Gommecourt aged 58 commanding the 46th Division.

When the 46th failed in its diversionary attack there was a court of inquiry. A report from his superior, General Sir Thomas Snow, Commander of the Vth Corps, concluded: "His Division showed a lack of offensive spirit in the recent operations and I attributed it to the fact that Stuart-Wortley was not, on account of his

physical conditions and age able to get about in the front trenches as much as was necessary for a Divisional Commander to do in this sort of war."

A curt letter signed by Haig informs the Military Secretary at the War Office: "I recom-

ended to you proves that my orders were carried out with dash and determination under very difficult conditions," he wrote. Unknown to him General Allenby, then General Commander of the 3rd Army, had added a personal note to the

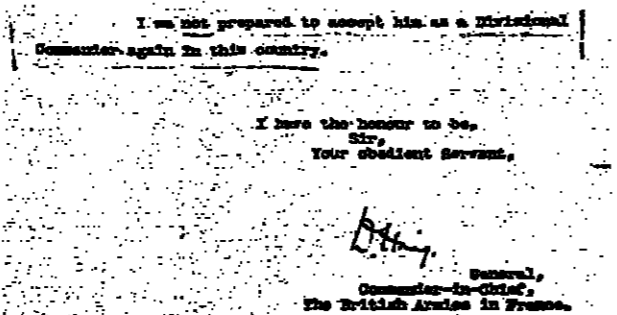
private secretary merely said His Majesty was "very sorry". He retired in 1919 and died in 1934, but for years he was driven to clear his record and to discover why he had not been awarded an honour. In 1918 he wrote to Haig directly, telling him: "I could not suffer a more ignoble and heart-breaking fate had I been tried by court-martial or had I committed some egregious blunder."

In May 1920 he wrote to Churchill formally asking for his case to be reviewed, and hinting at the antipathy between himself and Haig. "It only proves that the record of any officer's career... can be just wiped out by an act of injustice or the stroke of an unjust pen."

He told Churchill the King had asked him to write to him once a week from France and that George V had inspected his Division in October 1915 before leaving for the Somme, and that he had learnt from others that by doing so he had "incurred the severe displeasure of a higher military authority" — Haig.

Churchill concluded: "I remember having heard very bitter complaints made by officers who had served in his Division, that their men had been needlessly sacrificed; but of course, the General himself may have been acting under superior orders."

It only proves that the record of any officer's career... can be just wiped out by an act of injustice or the stroke of an unjust pen, and all his experience treated as worthless?



The letter from Haig, right, stating that he had relieved the general of his command



Major-General Edward James Montagu-Stuart-Wortley complained to Churchill

protest with the War Office the day after the battle. "I beg most respectfully to protest not only on my own behalf, but also on behalf of this Division against the statement that the Division showed a lack of offensive spirit. The report which I have this day

protest, saying: "I wish to state that the 46th Division has up to now given no reason to doubt its efficiency. I am sure that it is well commanded."

The general was immediately put on half pay and returned to Highlife. He wrote to the King but a letter from a

MI5 overstated the case against suspected fascist

MI5 mistakenly believed that a young market gardener from Devon was one of the leading members of Sir Oswald Mosley's Blackshirts movement and ordered his internment during the war.

Secret papers just disclosed at the Public Record Office show that, in 1940, Rafe Temple Cotton, then 31, fought to clear his name. Herbert Morrison, the Home Secretary, was warned by Sir Alexander Maxwell, his Permanent Secretary: "MI5's suggestions that this man has been concerned with codes and with passing on of secret information are, I believe, groundless. In this, as in some other cases, they over-colour the charges."

MI5 was adamant that Temple Cotton, from Branscombe, Devon, was guilty and, in a submission to Morrison, described him as "one of the eight persons to whom, on the outbreak of war, Mosley intended to delegate gen-

eral authority to act on behalf of the British Union". They had intercepted his mail and quoted Temple Cotton in a letter as saying: "It is most essential to keep going..."

The son of a colonel killed by the Germans during the First World War, Temple Cotton lived with his mother, Lucy, at Hills Arris farm. They were arrested and interned in June 1940. They had been under surveillance by MI5 and Special Branch for four years after Temple Cot-

ton had become district leader for the BU. According to MI5, his mother had been awarded the bronze distinction by Mosley.

A massive file was compiled against them — in 1939 mother and son, with a second son, Paul, on leave from the Colonial Office in Nyassaland (now Malawi), "left England for Ostend all wearing fascist badges and expressing pro-Nazi sympathies".

Official papers describe their home "on an eminence overlooking the sea and to be ideal for communicating with ships in the Channel and that both mother and son sleep in the veranda at night".

Temple Cotton was sent to Liverpool prison and his mother to Holloway. They immediately began appeals, backed by wealthy land-owning relatives and the son's former housemaster at Wellington College.

Temple Cotton wrote a powerful declaration of his patriotism to the prison governor and, within four weeks of his detention, impressed his appeal tribunal in London. He admitted that he had supported Mosley, but only in the interests of farming. He told the committee he believed it unfair that farming was the only industry that did not pay, "then I happened to hear of the BU policy... based very largely on the idea of making British agriculture supply the needs of the country and looking after the home market first".

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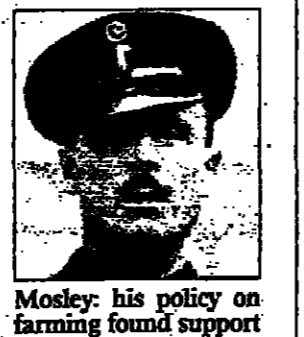
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Mosley: his policy on farming found support

He admitted attending Mosley's last meeting at the Albert Hall, when he had spoken up for the Royal Air Force. "That quite convinced me the BU was a thoroughly patriotic thing to join."

He vigorously denied each of the MI5 charges — his visit to Germany was for a winter sports holiday and he frequently visited the Tyrol. He also pledged to stop all political activity.

It was a powerful appearance before the four-man tribunal which was convinced he was no danger. It also recommended the release of his mother. The decision infuriated MI5, which immediately complained.

Temple Cotton was freed in February 1941. Last night his widow, Enid, who still lives at the family home, said she knew nothing about that period of her husband's life.

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Security Council keen to avoid a confrontation as Saddam digs in his heels

Iraq may escape with mild reprimand

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations Security Council is showing no stomach for a new confrontation with Iraq and is expected to issue only the mildest rebuke when it meets today to discuss Baghdad's latest defiance of UN weapons inspectors.

The 15 council members are to hear from Richard Butler, the chief UN inspector, on his talks in Baghdad on clearing up remaining questions about Iraq's banned chemical and biological weaponry and ballistic missiles.

Diplomats say Danilo Turk of Slovenia, the council president, will probably make a statement to the press calling on Iraq to renew its co-operation with UN inspectors immediately. A press statement is the weakest form of Security Council declaration, falling short of a formal statement in the council chamber or a full-scale resolution, which most delegations believe to be necessary before any military response.

Although Russia is working behind the scenes to persuade Iraq to back down, British officials fear the council's initial response will prove inadequate and that tougher action will be needed next week. So far, however, there are no plans for a resolution declaring Iraq in "material breach" of the Gulf War ceasefire, a step that would unequivocally permit retaliatory strikes.

The immediate goal of council members is to press Iraq to resume talks with Mr Butler on his "accelerated programme of work" for UN inspectors.

In June, Mr Butler drew up a "road map" for Iraqi compliance and took it to Baghdad where Iraqi officials agreed to an initial "programme of work" that expires on Sunday.

The Iraqi leadership refused to deal with such contentious topics as the country's production of VX nerve gas, its suspected possession of missile propellants and its efforts to conceal proscribed equipment from UN inspectors. The Iraqi side also refused to provide any more information about its clandestine biological weapons programme.

It was Mr Butler's effort to tackle these outstanding issues in the next phase of the inspectors' work, with a view to giving Iraq a clean bill of health in his next six-monthly report in October, that provoked the latest clash.

During a stopover in London on his way back to New York to brief Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, and the Security Council, Mr Butler sought to play down the breakdown of his talks with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister.

"I said very specifically to him that I don't think any of us should describe this as a crisis," Mr Butler said. "He asked me to simply declare them clean, declare that it's over. And I said I can't do that without the evidence. I don't have a magic wand. It has to be based on evidence. And he said, 'well, if you can't do that, if you can't do it our way, we'll suspend talking with you for a while'."

Diplomats in New York said one additional dispute between Iraq and the UN also remained unresolved. Mr Butler had been unable to retrieve a document discovered at an Iraqi Air Force base last month that outlined Iraq's use of chemical munitions against its neighbour Iran in the 1980-88 war.

Letters, page 19



Iraqi MPs in emergency session yesterday. The Speaker called for a halt in co-operation with Unscow

Baghdad parliament moves to end co-operation with UN

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ'S rubber-stamp parliament yesterday recommended freezing immediately the work of United Nations weapons inspectors and demanded that the eight-year oil embargo be lifted. The unanimous vote at the 250-strong national assembly gave President Saddam Hussein the ostensible support of his people to steer the country on another collision course with the West.

It was an ominous sign, but it remained unclear whether the Iraqi leader was yet willing to take such a drastic step. Having challenged the UN's authority earlier this week by rebuffing Richard Butler, the chief weapons inspector, the Iraqi leadership appeared to be awaiting reaction from Washington and New York before deciding its next move.

Muhammad al-Sahaf, Iraq's Foreign Minister, said after the six-hour parliamentary session that it was too early to talk of freezing relations with Unscow, the UN special commission on disarming Iraq.

For a second time in less than 24 hours, Saddam met members of the Revolutionary Command Council, Iraq's top decision-making body. There was speculation that the Iraqi leader would attempt to intensify any crisis gradually, hoping to win diplomatic support at the Security Council and among the wider Arab world. It was reported that Iraq told the Arab League yesterday that it had lost patience with Unscow.

Saddam-watchers said there were signs that, having thrust sanctions back on to the international agenda, he was

trying to demonstrate peaceful intent. Iraqi television showed Saddam and his senior advisers in business suits and ties, not their usual military uniforms.

The first step to a new confrontation came on Tuesday when Mr Butler cut short a Baghdad mission after Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister, demanded that he tell the Security Council that Iraq no longer possessed any weapons of mass destruction. Mr Aziz also rejected a plan to extend Unscow's work for another month.

Saddam chose not to act on parliament's November decision, which recommended halting co-operation with Unscow unless sanctions were lifted in six months. Sadoun Hamadi, the Speaker, yesterday called on the

Iraqi leadership to implement that resolution now. But by appearing too uncompromising, too soon, the Iraqi leader could alienate Russia and France on whom he relies for Security Council support. While both would like a phased lifting of sanctions, they share Washington and London's concerns about Iraq's chemical and biological programmes and have insisted Saddam must stop concealing evidence.

Diplomats also pointed out that if Saddam misjudges Washington's resolve, he might find Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General, unwilling to intercede a second time. In February planned US and British airstrikes were called off after he persuaded Saddam to open his palaces to inspection.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Netanyahu permits new home building

Jerusalem: The Israeli Government yesterday approved the construction of new homes for Jews in the West Bank settlement of Yitzhar, near Nablus, after the murder there of two settlers aged 18 and 24 (Ross Dunn writes). A defiant Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, gave the go-ahead following the ambush which has strained relations with the Palestinians near to breaking point.

Settlers' leaders called for a freeze in talks with the Palestinians after the attack at the 13-year-old settlement which houses 55 families. They met last night to decide how the community could be expanded as a memorial to the victims. A spokesman for Mr Netanyahu said that Israel had no intention of building new settlements.

East Timor talks pledge

New York: Indonesia agreed to United Nations talks aimed at establishing "wide ranging autonomy" for the former Portuguese possession of East Timor by the end of the year (James Bone writes). After two days of discussions at UN headquarters, Indonesia and Portugal said they would establish "interest sections" in each other's countries and intensify their efforts to agree on a "special status" for East Timor. The two sides also agreed to a greater role for the East Timorese in negotiations.

Car fume victims win award

Tokyo: The Japanese Government must pay 149 million yen (£609,000) in damages to 48 people suffering ill-health linked to inhaling car fumes, a court ruled. The verdict was a victory for the complainants, who all live within 165 ft of busy roads in Kawasaki, south of here, after an 18-year legal wrangle. Another 238 claimants were excluded because they live farther from the road. The court rejected a demand that all air-polluting discharges be banned. (AFP)

Hun Sen named poll victor

Phnom Penh: The party of Hun Sen, right, emerged the winner when the complete results of Cambodia's parliamentary election were announced, ten days after the vote. They appeared to give his Cambodian People's Party a slight majority in the National Assembly, although not the two-thirds required to form a government. Opposition parties alleged widespread irregularities and fraud in both voting and vote-counting. (AP)



Kiev tax debtors locked in

Kiev: The Ukrainian authorities locked 500 local and regional leaders, as well as 1,700 business leaders, in a conference centre and told them that they would stay there until they start paying off their tax debts. The Government has laid on food, water and telephones for its "prisoners". They had been invited by the Government to discuss Ukraine's financial problems. (AFP)

Judges on learning curve

Rome: Judges at a beauty contest in the seaside resort of Pescara who discovered that a contestant for the title of Miss Adriatic 1998 was a man have elected him anyway - because he had the necessary "provocative curves" (Richard Owen writes). "Angela Baier" was really Massimiliano Baier, 23, a Sicilian transsexual. Judges said they were completely taken in by Angela's long blonde hair and "full red mouth".

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France cuts line to rural phone box

Mobile phones spell the end of a traditional bastion, writes Ben Macintyre

BRITISH BOXES SECURE

British Telecom said it would not discriminate against rural residents. "It is our duty to provide a service to all members of the community. We have 140,000 payphones

throughout the UK, and we are expanding and putting in more boxes," BT said. "The aim is that no one needs to be more than a few hundred yards from a box."

not to mention visitors lost on country roads without a map or mobile telephone.

By law, France Télécom is technically required to provide at least one public telephone for every 1,000 inhabitants, and critics have accused the company of forgetting its obligations. The row over rural telephone boxes is part of a wider debate over privatisation. "Once again, the logic of financial profit has prevailed, to the detriment of public service and the interests of customers," the Communist CGT union said.

France Télécom has sought to play down the effects of the move. "Some telephone boxes, which are not sufficiently used, will be removed. But others will simply be relocated to more favourable sites, after consultation with mayors and local groups," Jacques Rivals, marketing director of France Télécom, said.

But a memo recently circulated to the company's regional directors flatly called for "a withdrawal of investment in the most unprofitable sites" in the face of stiff competition from mobile telephones.

The sharp fall in the number of calls from telephone boxes "has come much earlier and more seriously than expected", Jean-François Pontal, executive director of France Télécom's public service arm, wrote. "In the circumstances, to maintain the level of profit anticipated, a radical change in direction is necessary. To that end, I ask you to come up with emergency plans on a case-by-case basis."

Each telephone box costs £3,000 to install, and France Télécom spends millions every year on maintenance. But for many the decision to do away with under-used boxes is yet another indication that market forces are slowly destroying traditional life.

Of course mobile telephones are eating away at the profitability of telephone boxes, but social utility must outweigh profit, insists Alain Baron, a union leader. "Not everyone has the money for a mobile telephone, but everyone should have access to a telephone box, wherever they are."

TELEPHONE boxes may soon be phased out in rural areas of France, to the anger of unions and country folk who say that a vital link with the rest of the world will be cut simply to maximise profits.

Built out of concrete, metal and glass, the French telephone box is one of the most useful and least attractive features of the countryside, but France Télécom, the partially-privatised telephone network, insists that many are no longer financially viable and

should be progressively abolished. Because of the increasing popularity of mobile telephones, the 226,000 *cabines téléphoniques* across France are attracting less and less custom. Since January 1, use of telephone boxes has dropped steadily, where France Télécom had predicted a growth of 5 per cent this year, and company officials say the time has come to dismantle unprofitable boxes.

The move has been greeted with dismay by unions and regional groups who say that it is a prelude to the disappearance of the rural telephone box, further isolating rural areas. "This is an infringement of everyone's right to communicate, and the poorest and youngest people will be the most heavily penalised," the SUD-PTT telephone workers' union said.

The unlovely and often malodorous modern French telephone box has often been criticised as an eyesore, but is invaluable to isolated villages.

Long queues prompted plan to cut off verbose callers

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

FRANCE got its first public telephone box on January 1, 1885. For 35 years, the wooden cabins could be found only in post offices, cafés, hotels and restaurants. Identical to the telephones in private homes, the first public phones were attached to the wall. Payment was made to a cabin attendant which, coupled with the fact that the telephones could be used only when these establishments were open, made them inconvenient.

In 1920 the first automatic telephone arrived and was installed in four Paris post offices. Three years later, France's public telephone system was taken over by Taxiphone, which rapidly installed cast-iron cabins along main roads. As a result, the word "Taxiphone" passed into the French language where it remained until the 1970s when it was replaced by "Publicphone". In 1929 an observer noted,



Parisiens pick a box

"On the road between Paris and Deauville one can now find 30 Taxiphones, all attached to the walls of post offices."

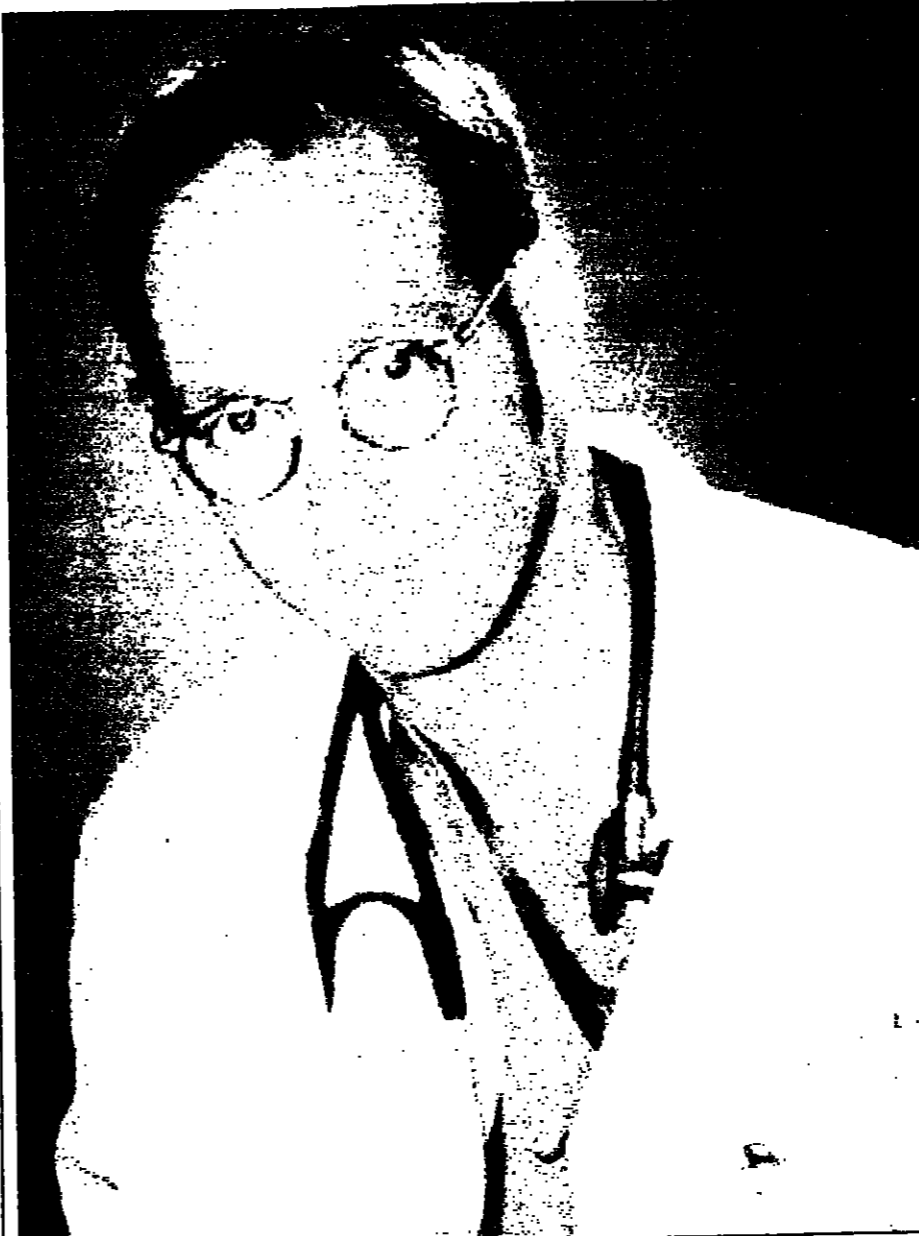
However, the number of telephone boxes remained small, despite the fact that few French people had a telephone in their home. A request for a telephone routinely took years before it was answered. Lengthy queues outside telephone

boxes were the order of the day and an official study was conducted in the 1950s to determine if it might be possible to cut off the verbose and long-winded automatically.

In the 1970s France modernised its telephone system to bring it into line with other European countries and thousands of stily hot, ultra-modern aluminium and plate-glass phone boxes appeared across the country.

The introduction of phone cards in the 1980s was a major innovation which helped reduce vandalism. There are now 226,000 public telephones in France of which 83 per cent take cards.

The new face of French telephone boxes is the "Totem", 50,000 of which are to be installed in the next three years. The new telephones allow the caller direct access to a taxi reservation service, weather forecast and the Michelin Hotel and Restaurant Guide at the touch of a button.



Anthony Edwards makes his mark, becoming the highest paid drama series star

'ER' star paid \$35m to stay until 2002

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

RIVALRY among American television networks for those stars that have a winning way with viewers and ratings has seen salaries pushed to a new high. Anthony Edwards, a star of the hospital drama *ER*, has reportedly signed a \$35 million (£21.5 million) deal that works out at about \$400,000 an episode — making him the highest paid performer in a television drama series.

Noah Wyle, a co-star, has secured only marginally less after negotiations that have ensured the two stay with the show until 2002. The deals were made as network rivals try to poach both individual stars and whole shows.

Earlier this year NBC agreed to pay Warner Bros. makers of *ER*, \$13 million an episode over three seasons to prevent defection to another channel. George Clooney, the programme's heartthrob, has graduated to feature films, prompting fears that some colleagues might go too.

Edwards, 35 — Mark Greene in the hospital series — has eclipsed stars of other dramatic series such as David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson; they earn about \$100,000 apiece for each episode of *The X-Files*.

Congo rebels deny Tutsi plot

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

CONGOLESE rebels yesterday consolidated their hold over the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and announced they were part of a "nationwide rebellion". Their move was aimed at dispelling fears that the mainly-Tutsi rebels intend to form a "Tutsi superstate" with neighbouring Rwanda and Burundi.

Bizima Karaha, a Tutsi, Congo's Foreign Minister until last week, said that the uprising was a country-wide revolution to topple [President] Kabila.

"It is spreading like fire. Towns are falling to our forces without resistance because people are disillusioned and

angry with Kabila," he said from Goma, where he joined other rebel leaders to elect a "national co-ordinator".

Dr Karaha, who has been accused of being a "Rwandian" and not a genuine Congolese, joined Mr Kabila's movement in 1996, during the struggle to drive then President Mobutu from power. A former doctor based in South Africa, he has now thrown in his lot with the rebels who, diplomatic sources said, were being supported with men and arms from Rwanda.

"Kabila has failed us and we need to set out a new vision for the Congo, a vision based on

the future for all Congolese, regardless of their tribal affiliation," he said.

His insistence that there is multi-ethnic participation in the uprising has some credibility as Mr Kabila has alienated opposition groups, jailed their leaders, abandoned commitments to hold elections last April, and ruled by presidential decree since he came to power in May last year.

But many non-Tutsi tribes in the east of Congo are aware that Tutsi nationalists believe that much of North Kivu belongs in Rwanda, which lost the territory during the colonial carve-up 100 years ago.

There is no doubt, whatever the intentions of the rebels, that many see a sort of Tutsi conspiracy to establish hegemony over the whole region," said a senior Western diplomat in Kinshasa, the Congolese capital, yesterday.

The Voice of the People radio station, based in Goma, announced the election of Arthur Zahidi Ngoma as the rebellion's co-ordinator at a meeting of rebel leaders on Tuesday.

Fighting continued about 1,000 miles from the eastern "homeland" of the Tutsi, at Kitoma, about 140 miles southwest of Kinshasa, where detectors from Mr Kabila's army clashed with loyalist troops.

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Serbs deny Kosovo mass graves claim



Witnesses claim that over 500 civilians were murdered and hastily buried by Serbs, writes Tom Walker from Orahovac

THE Belgrade authorities began a desperate damage-limitation exercise in Kosovo yesterday, attempting to quash persistent rumours of mass graves containing hundreds of bodies in the area around Orahovac, the southern town taken amid heavy fighting by police and troops two weeks ago.

It was public relations of a peculiarly Balkan kind: while rushing journalists to Orahovac, the press convoy passed through the former Kosovo Liberation Army headquarters of Malisevo, where police had just put the entire main street to the torch.

Had they passed a little earlier, journalists on the convoy would have seen uniformed policemen filling bottles with petrol and heading off to find more houses deemed suitable for burning. No international organisation has yet defined what is hap-

pening across central Kosovo as "ethnic cleansing", but the actions of the security forces certainly suggest that Albanians — and most of the villages being destroyed were wholly Albanian — are certainly not welcome.

However shocking the scenes of refugees in fields and the inferno in Malisevo, it was to a rubbish dump on the edge of the Muslim graveyard in Orahovac that the international press corps and Contact Group monitors gravitated.

The Austrian and German press yesterday carried the testimony of witnesses who claimed they had helped to load 567 bodies — 430 of them children — into lorries in the aftermath of the fighting in Orahovac.

The witnesses said they were forced by Serbian police units to bury the bodies. Some of the dead children were brought in rubbish sacks.

The alleged massacres occurred between July 18 and 21. The ethnic Albanian partisans of the KLA attacked and surrounded the town's police station on July 17. Next day, 700 troops from Serbia's Special Anti-Terrorist Unit (SAJ), arrived to reinforce the besieged Serb police and drove back the ethnic Albanians.

That version seems to be accepted by all sides. Then, according to the witnesses, the Serb troops started to use



Foreign journalists visit the alleged site of a mass Kosovan grave next to a rubbish dump near Orahovac yesterday. Witnesses claim 567 bodies are buried there

civilians as human shields. The following day the SAJ went from house to house, rooting out families. About 25,000 fled in panic towards the town of Malisevo.

The Serbian-run Media Centre yesterday organised a group of reporters to visit the alleged graves. Journalists have so far found the rubbish

dump, where yesterday we counted 25 wooden sticks with numbers, and in some cases names, scrawled on them. Other victims of the battle for Orahovac are buried in Prizren, a larger town 20 miles south on the Albanian border. So far no other alleged gravesites have been located. A European Union delegation

said it had found no evidence of mass graves. In Orahovac, Colonel Bozidar Filic, the regional police spokesman, angrily demanded to know why the international press was focusing on a story that may well be fictitious, while the fate of 57 Serbs who disappeared from Orahovac has been ignored.

"It's not a garbage dump, it's next to the Muslim graveyard," he protested, contradicted by questions about the apparent barbarity of the burials given to the Albanians who, according to police accounts, were KLA fighters killed in trenches around Orahovac.

"I know they have been buried in a proper way," said Colonel Filic. "Everyone was put in a separate grave." He said that altogether 58 Albanians had been killed in Orahovac, 40 of whom were buried in the town, and 11 in Prizren. The other seven were taken away by their families.

The Serb total for those killed is only two fewer than the 60 claimed by the Albanian Council for Human Rights, casting further doubt on the witnesses' account.

To claim the Albanians had been buried in a "proper way"

was clearly absurd; they had been bulldozed into hastily-dug pits in what certainly appeared to be a rubbish dump, sandwiched between the graveyard and a field of

6 Albanian bodies had been bulldozed into pits in what appeared to be a rubbish dump?

maize. An unbearable stench emanated from the bloated bodies of cattle dumped just behind the Albanian graves.

Before the files are closed on Orahovac, however, what went on in the town's dervish

lodge, or *tekke*, will have to be explained. The town has three Muslim sects, of which the 78-year-old leader of the main Halveti branch, Sheh Mi-hedim, was shot dead inside the courtyard of the *tekke*. Those close to the Sheh say he was always opposed to the KLA and had even tried to do a deal with Orahovac's Serb Mayor to ensure the safety of his people.

But witnesses among the Albanians now reluctantly returning to Orahovac say that several hundreds of his followers left the *tekke* only to be mown down by Serb machine-gun fire; they said the bodies were bulldozed from the streets shortly before the first convoy of journalists was brought to Orahovac two days after the fighting.

James Pettifer, page 18
Leading article, page 19



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Houses burn in the village of Malisevo after being set alight by Serbian police

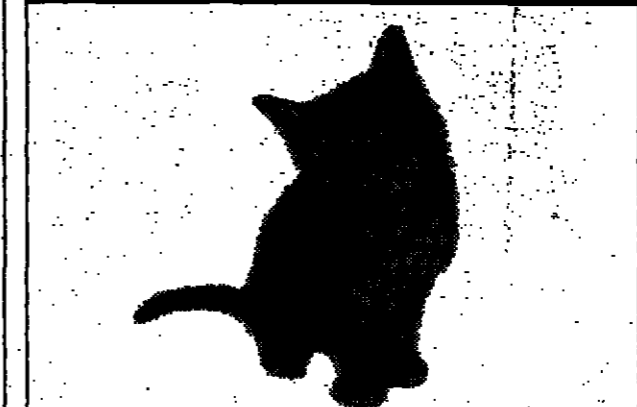
La Fenice blaze is blamed on mayor

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE final report into the fire which destroyed La Fenice opera theatre in Venice yesterday accused Massimo Cacciari, the Mayor, of bearing "overall responsibility" for a "series of very serious shortcomings in the running of the theatre, which contributed culpably to its destruction".

The report by Felice Casson, the deputy prosecutor in Venice, named ten "guilty men" who, it said, bore some of the blame for the devastation in 1996, and recommended that they should all be charged. Giocchino Termini, the city's chief investigating magistrate, will decide by October on any prosecutions.

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Reticent lawyer breaks his silence to present the President's case



Kendall: exudes calm in a turbulent sea

ONE by one all the President's men have gone. They are still physically present, buzzing in and out of the beleaguered White House with the same fixed rictuses for the cameras. It is just that they are out of the loop, no longer able to talk to the boss about the one thing that is on everyone's mind. The success of Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, in slapping subpoenas on lawyers on the White House payroll has left President Clinton with barely a shoulder to cry on as the Monica Lewinsky affair moves towards a denouement. "He has to be the loneliest guy in the country," said Leon Panetta, a former Chief of

America's 'loneliest guy' has turned to an old friend, writes Damian Whitworth

Staff. But the President does have one confidant. Aside from his dog, Buddy, who is said to be a good listener, and his wife, Hillary, whose conversations can only be guessed at, Mr Clinton is seeing an awful lot of David Kendall, an old chum from Yale Law School. A fellow Rhodes scholar, Mr Kendall is also now his pal's private lawyer, charged with preparing him for his testimony before the grand jury and the only person Mr Clinton will have with

him to hold his hand when he comes eyeball to eyeball with Mr Starr, the closed circuit television cameras roll and the interrogation begins on August 17. For a man on whose advice so much rests, surprisingly little is known. In a capital where lawyers, including those who have been involved in this case, are ubiquitous on television, Mr Kendall is deliberately reticent. "Too many defence lawyers say too much to the press, too often, for their

client's good," he said once. And that is about all he has said. Mr Kendall, 53, a Quaker brought up in the Midwest with a 30-year marriage and a love of highbrow books and lowbrow action films, is so concerned with discretion and control that it is said even White House staff are kept in the dark about this case. It was days before news that the President had been subpoenaed by Mr Starr leaked out, and it was reported that even the President himself was not told the day the subpoena arrived, because he was out of town and it was deemed by Mr Kendall that there was nothing to be gained in troubling him at

that moment. When Mr Kendall first started working for the Clintons four years ago it was some time before anyone outside their close circle was aware of the fact. While Bob Bennett, his colleague who worked primarily on the Paula Jones case, can be blunt and brash, Mr Kendall is known for his steady influence on clients under pressure. "He can take a turbulent sea and calm things down," said James Carville, the former presidential campaign aide. That does not mean this tall, debonair man is not tough. Much of his recent work has been for media clients, including the National Enquirer and Play

boy, as well as Mohamed Al Fayed. But in earlier days he honed his street fighting skills, literally on the streets. He was arrested 12 times while registering black voters in 1964 when his roommate, the civil rights worker Andrew Goodman, was murdered in Mississippi. And Mr Clinton knows he has a lawyer who relishes hard cases and will fight tooth and nail. On one occasion Mr Kendall is said to have had to be restrained in a row with a prison warden on behalf of a client who had been refused a Bible and a visit from a pastor. The man was on Death Row preparing for the end.

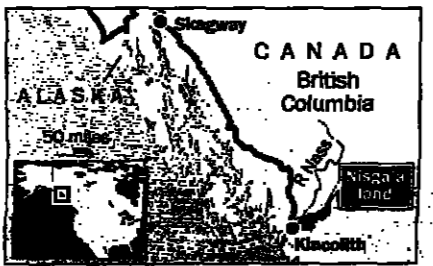
Separatist row triggered by tribal treaty

By Tunku Varadarajan

AN extraordinary agreement with a Native American tribe in British Columbia has raised the spectre of racially separate development across Canada. Under the pact, the Nisga'a Indians will get an even greater degree of autonomy and self-government than that accorded to Quebec, the Francophone province which harbours a powerful separatist movement. The tribe will elect its own government, and its legislators will have the right to pass laws on any matter other than foreign affairs, currency and defence. They can even levy taxes, and the Nisga'a have exclusive rights to all natural resources in the land designated as theirs, including the continental shelf off the coast. Canada is now bracing itself for a rash of tribal claims to "ancestral" land after the 5,000-strong Nisga'a nation signed the unprecedented treaty with the Government of British Columbia, gaining almost total control over a 750-square-mile area near the southern corner of Alaska.

The treaty's critics are outraged by its terms, arguing that it creates a racially exclusive state within Canada. Only the Nisga'a can vote for the region's administration, leaving non-Nisga'a residents disenfranchised. "No taxation without representation", the slogan under which America fought its War of Independence, is being revived by those who deride the deal. Keith Martin, an MP for the conservative Reform Party, said: "Apartheid or separate development failed in South Africa and it will fail in British Columbia." In a trenchant editorial, *The Ottawa Citizen* said: "Canada is a democracy. The governments of our many jurisdictions must be elected by the people who live under them. The Nisga'a treaty will create the only jurisdiction in Canada where some Canadians living within it cannot vote for its government. And what bars them will be blood ancestry — race. How is that not race-based government?"

Fears of an outbreak of Canadian "bantustans" would not appear to be far-fetched. There are 50 other Native American tribes whose relationships with Canada are not regulated by treaties. Each one, and they are all in British Columbia, has staked claims in the past to part of the province. Cartographers calculate that not one square mile of the province has gone unclaimed, including the city of Vancouver. These claims have now received a powerful boost from the Nisga'a treaty. The document has been seized on by tribal elders as a template for other agreements.



Hereditary chiefs of the Nisga'a tribe don traditional dress before signing the treaty

Lewinsky submits Clinton-inscribed photo as evidence

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

MONICA LEWINSKY is expected to testify to a grand jury today after handing over a photograph of her and President Clinton said to be inscribed by him on the back in a "very personal" way. Extra security precautions were being put in place at the federal courthouse here yesterday to cope with the anticipated media crush for Ms Lewinsky's appearance. Meanwhile, Mr Clinton, who is due before the grand jury on August 17, was given a rousing show of support by Democratic members of Congress at a private rally on party strategy for the November election. There were no references to the Lewinsky investigation and he was interrupted half a dozen times with standing ovations. Ms Lewinsky's lawyers said that her account to grand jurors of a sexual relationship with Mr Clinton is likely to last only a day or two. Ms Lewinsky has not uttered a word in public since the scandal broke on January 21. Even now, her testimony will be heard in camera and there are no plans for her to speak to the media when her grand jury appearance is over. It was disclosed yesterday that Ms Lewinsky gave the photograph to Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, when she made the immunity deal. She had previously kept it hidden from investigators. The photograph joins other

alleged physical evidence she has handed over, including tapes of messages left by Mr Clinton on her answering machine and a navy blue cocktail dress that she claims is stained with his semen. The FBI said it had completed an initial first round of DNA tests on the dress and was beginning a second round yesterday. There was no confirmation of a cable television report saying the tests were positive. The test results were held under tight security. The basis of Ms Lewinsky's evidence will be her allegations of sexual encounters with Mr Clinton, said to involve oral sex, in a small study off the Oval Office. She can also expect to be grilled about her 37 visits to the White House after she had left her job there as a trainee and the suggestion that Mr Clinton advised her to say she was only seeing his personal secretary, Betty Currie. She will be asked about gifts that she exchanged with Mr Clinton, including a book of Walt Whitman's poems, and whether she received instructions to return them when Paula Jones's lawyers started asking questions. Another issue will be the top-level effort to find Ms Lewinsky a job outside Washington. Vernon Jordan, a close Clinton confidant, has admitted helping her to find employment and a lawyer.

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NOT A FRIEND IN THE WORLD

After two divorces, love leaves Tracy Edwards all at sea. Interview by Moira Petty

Tracy Edwards has sailed around the world three times and been married and divorced twice. She is determined that her weddings should not outnumber her highly publicised adventures on the open seas.

"I don't want to be one of those people who have been married countless times," she says. Edwards, 36 next month, is looking for a sponsor to back her fourth transglobal yachting challenge to the tune of £8 million; but putative husbands needn't come knocking. She winces at the mention of her second divorce, which became final last November. Edwards, a contemporary version of those bossy and invincible Victorian women explorers, is unabashed by cruel seas and enervating attacks of seasickness. It is when she reaches land that the stormy weather really cuts in.

"I think men find it impossible to deal with strong women. Or maybe I've just picked the wrong men," she says. "I'm a little bit envious when I read of celebrities who are happily married. That's the dream which we all pursue. I feel a failure. I don't think I'll ever be normal in that sense."

She is, she says, "single-minded and focused". Unfortunately for her marriages, her concentration tended to be on her next yachting expedition. She can conform to a domestic role only when it is not expected of her.

"My mother, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, and my brother now live with me and I happily run around the house picking up the laundry and doing the shopping and cooking. The thought of pushing a trolley round the supermarket with a husband is anathema to her. 'I'd rather stick pins in my eyes,' she says heartily.

With two failed marriages in quick succession she has been forced to make a harsh decision: "I'm an optimist. I expect the best out of relationships. I believe 100 per cent in marriage. I just don't think it suits me. Because of my religious beliefs I have a sense of having failed twice. I've come to the conclusion that I don't want to marry again."

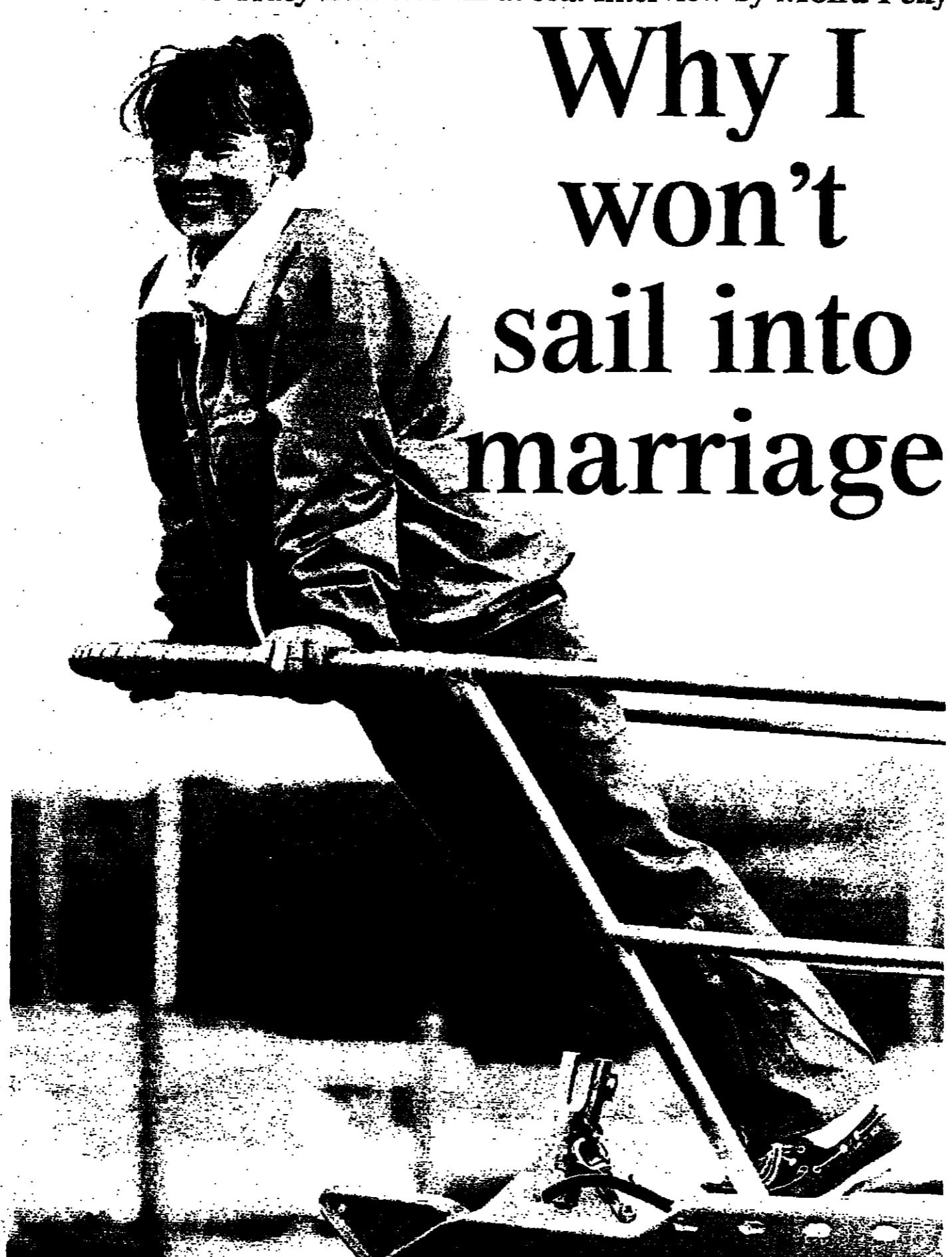
Edwards married her first husband, Simon Lawrence, soon after returning from the 1989-90 Whitbread Round the World Race, winning two legs and second place overall with the all-female crew of *The Maiden*. The wedding was in a Norman church in Hamble, in Hampshire, and Tracy wore a white dress: "Quite a girly thing to do," says the once tomboyish Edwards.

But the magic evaporated quickly. "They cut our first New Forest honeymoon short and went home to paint their house. 'We were stupid enough to say too close to home,' she says. More importantly, she feels they had rushed into marriage high on the euphoria of the Whitbread.

"During that race we both changed. About three months later we woke up and realised we'd mucked up. Neither of us was ready for marriage. We weren't bitter and had learnt valuable lessons in life."

In 1994, she chose a register office for her wedding to Chris Cosslett, a computer engineer. The break-up after about 18 months was painful. "I was hurt and angry with myself," Edwards, who recently signed a deal with Abingdon Management to give lectures on motivation to companies, has moved forward by giving herself a pep talk.

"I'm very good at looking at my mistakes and dealing with them. I don't like things hanging over my head. I've looked back to see what my part in it was. I want to come to terms with it so that I can look to new opportunities. Every so often you meet someone who does the dirty on you. I don't want to be so afraid of being hurt that I can't give my all to a relationship."



Tracy Edwards's legendary exploits include sailing the world three times. But in her emotional life she admits that she feels a failure

involved with a man. "It's a good, comfortable relationship and there's no need to rush it." Unlike her husbands, he is a sailor. "The penny finally dropped," she grins.

Although she is emphatic that she will never be a Mrs again, she is not ruling out motherhood. "It's something I feel very unsure about. My mother keeps mentioning grandchildren but I don't have any maternal instincts. I see

that you think of the horror. At sea, 99.9 per cent of survival is up to you. More people die in dinghies off Britain's coast than in yacht racing."

Edwards is stringent about safety at sea. "My male counterparts have a tougher time getting crews to wear safety harnesses. She crewed, 'cooking and cleaning food', for a mostly male crew during the 1985-86 Whitbread Race.

"They didn't think women could ever do as well as they could. I spent most of my time cutting open packets of freeze-dried food. If I was able to do something technical. That's when I knew that if women were to be recognised in yachting, we had to have all-female crews."

She dislikes swimming since a childhood incident when she almost drowned. "Another kid jumped on me in the pool and I kept going under. Now I can just about keep my head above water."

has ruled out an application to the Millennium Fund. "We're not a charity, although everything we learn when we're at sea, especially testing safety equipment, filters down."

Earlier this year, sailing in the Southern Ocean for the Jules Verne Trophy, her catamaran sustained serious damage in 40ft waves. "One of the girls said afterwards that she felt she'd looked death in the face. It's only a few hours later

that you think of the horror. At sea, 99.9 per cent of survival is up to you. More people die in dinghies off Britain's coast than in yacht racing."

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sists. Yet she found a refuge in sailing after escaping at 16 to Greece from a miserable adolescence. Her father Antony died, aged 42, of a heart attack when she was ten.

"I was in bed and heard it all happen. I remember being very calm. I didn't really know what death was. Now I feel that he's watching me and I talk to him all the time."

Her mother Pat, a beautiful former ballet dancer - "I was always in awe of her" - remarried and then the family moved from Reading to Swansea.

Tracy's relationship with her stepfather, Peter, who died last year, was of the Force Nine Gale variety. "I hated him and didn't want him bossing me around."

"My mother worked every hour to support us as he wasn't able to open the wildlife park he'd planned. I behaved like a brat, played truant from school and was expelled, which made things worse. It must have been terrible for my mother, stuck in the middle."

"I didn't like being a teenager. I felt out of sync with everyone. I used to plaster on blue eye shadow but I had been a tomboy and didn't realise that to be one of the girls you had to enjoy shopping for clothes on a Saturday."

Tracy has recently re-created some of the atmosphere of her happy early childhood, with her closest family around her. Her mother moved in with her when her MS worsened and her brother followed. "I admire my mother tremendously. She has had the disease for 30 years. Now we don't know if she will have a good day or a bad day next. Her life isn't normal and she is in pain, but she doesn't complain or cry."

"I don't think I could cope the way she has. She has always been a very strong person, and my most important role model."

Why I won't sail into marriage



All together: the Royal Family is wedded to annual celebrations

The rallying of the clan

There is something consoling about seeing the Blairs going off to Tuscany (with granny in tow) and the royals gathering for granny's birthday before dispersing to their various villas and castles at the beginning of August. This ritual is part of the year's continuum, like deciding who's going to which family at Christmas, which every family in the land feels obliged to follow.

Mary Goldring once said, in an *Any Questions* programme, that "the family" is a nebulous concept that can be defined as whoever is behind your front door when you get home. One could extend this definition to whoever you spend your holidays and Christmases with. No matter what guilts, recriminations and failures of communication during the rest of the year, no matter at what distances the scattered family lives, no matter what upheavals and marriage break-ups have fractured the relationship, these twin peaks of familial obligation are what cement our sense of the clan.

As I say to my family, when the photograph albums come out with all their samey images, it's too ridiculous. You would think you spent your entire lives diving into swimming pools and blowing out candles and opening Christmas stockings. There's no photographic record of the humdrum reality of daily life: the homework in front of the telly, the morning walk with the dog, the dead garden in winter (unless three or four snowflakes have fallen) or the car being unloaded after shopping. From the pictures alone, you'd assume that every Grove dinner was a feast at a long table with beaming faces as Father brings in a vast turkey or a steaming paella held aloft.

But the rallying of the clan at predictable moments is the key to the perpetuation of the family that successive governments flaunt before us as an ideal. "We grumble at our families, we hear on every band that family ties are slackening - and yet, we pack the trains at Christmas going home," as Dodie Smith wrote in her play, *Dear Octopus*, 1938. So the

Valerie Grove on the family's crucial role

disintegrating family has been shored up by Christmas for 60 years.

The royals are picturesquely wedded to the concept, which is why we were charmed to see the gathering at Clarence House before the dispersal to holiday retreats. I have had 23 years of following this pattern. It always fell to my husband, as eldest son, to pick the place and the house. The younger siblings and their families - from Vancouver, from Madrid, from Sydney - would arrive for this reunion in the European sun. One year, in the Dog-dog, we were 17; another year (for granny's 80th) we were 21.

Phew! As I look back, all these holidays blend into a formulaic pattern: feasting, tennis, charades, backgammon, Scrabble, the final-night performance of a play written by the children; and the regulation after-dinner singing of songs accompanied by guitar or, last year, Great Uncle Tony's ukulele.

But this year brings rebellion. We have had enough. We are abandoning the family and running away from home - as we so often threatened when confronted by mulish teenage habits. They are all old enough to go off severely with their own friends - friends who, increasingly in recent years, we had to take with us. We will drive off at dawn *à deux*. I am vaguely apprehensive about it. I expect we shall spend a lot of time faxing home to check whether they have remembered to feed and walk the dog, put out the rubbish, clean their teeth etc. And I am pretty certain that at the end of summer we shall have missed the noise, chaos and squabbles and start planning the next gathering - Christmas I suppose - for another scene of family en masse.

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Check out Labour's new barons

Roger Scruton finds the power of the supermarkets pernicious

In an age when political parties borrow their philosophies and hire their publicists, there is only one way to discover what they mean — study their barons.

Old Labour's barons were trade union bullies. The barons of new Labour, like its policies, have come from the Tory party. They are the chieftains of supermarket chains, ennobled, like Lords Sainsbury and Haskins, not for services to the community — they have done more than anyone else to destroy it — but for their services to Labour.

Lord Haskins, the chairman of Northern Foods, is head of the Government's better regulation task force. Lord Sainsbury of Turville, who gave the party £2 million before the general election, has even been made a junior minister in the Department of Trade and Industry, thus achieving every baron's dream — controlling the political process that ought to be controlling him. The fact that he has stepped down as chairman of his company is as much proof of independence as the announcement by an Italian minister that he has

eliminate the local food economy — even though no other economy will be sustainable in the long term. Britain imports fruit to the value of £1.5 billion, as opposed to the £240 million spent on local produce. The average supermarket item travels nearly 2,000 miles from source to purchaser — and it is a sobering thought that it takes 2.5 litres of aviation fuel to fly 1 lb of strawberries from California.

There is a symbiotic relationship between the supermarket and agribusiness. Those who lament the destruction of hedgerows, copses, and wildlife habitats ought not to blame the old-fashioned farmer, for whom these things were home. They should blame the new barons. The prairie farm, run by city slickers with not the slightest knowledge of the countryside, is exactly what the supermarkets require to achieve their rock-bottom prices. And the old-fashioned farmer cannot survive when there is no local distributor for his produce.

The supermarkets promote themselves as friends of the consumer; their overriding concern, they tell us, is to minimise the cost of goods. But the argument is specious. The supermarkets do not reduce the cost of food; they externalise it. Instead of passing the cost to the purchaser, they pass it on to everyone in environmental, social and aesthetic destruction. And the damage is irreparable. The price of food today is an unrecognisable world tomorrow.

Imported produce helps to kill the local food economy

Supermarkets have one overriding goal, to destroy the small trader. They pursued this goal with relentless zeal under the Tories, to the point that the four giants — Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury and Sainsbury — now account for 67 per cent of the British food market. They are facing an inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading. But the inquiry comes too late. In the past ten years 50,000 retail businesses have disappeared from our towns; village shops are on the verge of extinction and local producers are unable to distribute their goods or forbidden to do so by increasingly arbitrary ministerial decrees.

The threat posed by the supermarkets is of a vaster order than that posed by other oligopolies. And it goes to the heart of all the things that most deeply concern us — the decline of inner cities, the ruin of the countryside, the collapse of the rural economy, the mania for roadbuilding, the loss of diversity and locality and the wholesale destruction of the environment. Supermarkets claim to bring employment, but the work they bring is only a fraction of the jobs they destroy. Town centres become deserts where a few charity shops survive, and the rich diversity of local production and sale gives way to the silent uniformity of the cash till.

Supermarkets prefer to build in open spaces, breaking through the perimeter of the town, and encouraging that centrifugal pattern of development which is eating up our countryside and replacing living towns and cities with light-polluted suburbs. They encourage people to depend on cars, and to shop not among their near neighbours, but miles away in anonymous crowds. By importing food from all over the world, supermarkets

cheap food today is an unrecognisable world tomorrow. New Labour is not to blame for the current situation. Nevertheless, a new government ought to put paid to the most notorious corruption of the last one. The Tory party lost its prestige because it believed in nothing and was in the pockets of the barons. Having destroyed the credibility of the Tories, the barons changed sides, as self-interest demanded. And they have found, in new Labour, just what they need to complete their triumph — a party with a mania for regulation, which will drive out the small producer not by unfair competition but by government decree.

The powers of the Health Department and Agriculture Ministry have already been used to damage organic farmers, traders in unpasteurised milk and cheese, high-street butchers, and small producers of every kind. The likelihood is that the Food Advisory Council will pass regulations with which only the supermarkets will be able to comply and impose impossible tests on those who struggle to survive in their shadow.

If the barons have their way, the small risk of *E. coli* and salmonella will be hyped up until it looks as though we all must die, but for the benign supervision of Lords Haskins and Sainsbury, who work day and night to ensure that those dirty farmers, butchers and cheese-makers are finally closed down.



Living in the long run

Is Wall Street submerged by a long wave? Consult the great Kondratiev

On Tuesday Wall Street fell quite sharply, as did most of the other stock markets of the world. This is so far a relatively minor correction: the Dow Jones Index is still some 15 per cent up on last January's start, though it is nearly 10 per cent down on its record high of three weeks ago. Nevertheless, the fall has been enough to revive the nervousness of American investors. On Tuesday I was talking to an American business man about the markets. He said: "I thought the market was going to crash last autumn. I'm sure it's going to happen this autumn."

Those who think there will be a crash followed by a slump mostly believe in a long economic cycle, of about 50-60 years, which is associated with the Russian economist Nikolai Kondratiev. His views were given prominence by Joseph Schumpeter in his prewar work on *Business Cycles*, which discusses the causes of the 1930s great slump. Unfortunately, Kondratiev's own writings have not been readily available. He was arrested under Stalin in 1930, and executed in 1938, so his works were not freely available in the Soviet Union.

The situation has been even worse for English readers. His only long work paper in English, as Andrew Tylecote observes, "was an abbreviated translation of the article in German", which had appeared in 1926, in the *Review of Economic Studies* in 1935. In 1983, I re-established the publishing business of Pickering & Chatto, on the principles that had been followed by William Pickering, who had founded the firm in 1820. His most important publications were scholarly editions of major authors.



William Rees-Mogg

I have been particularly interested since the early 1970s in the history of economic thought, and especially in Kondratiev himself. The great economists respond to the economic conditions of their own time; as for generations past, much of what they discover ceases to be relevant to current events, and may almost be forgotten, except by a small group of historians of economic theory. Our first publication, in accordance with this view, was Wrigley and Souden's edition of the works of Thomas Malthus, the founder of population studies.

Elena Kondratieva, the economist's daughter, grew up to be an eminent Russian microbiologist. She came to know Professor Philipp Gerhardt and his wife, at the Department of Microbiology at Michigan State University. In 1991 Professor Gerhardt contacted the economic historian Warren J. Samuels to discuss an edition of Kondratiev's works in English, based on the Gerhardt collection, now at the Hoover Institute, and on Elena Kondratieva's support.

Pickering & Chatto became involved in 1994. *The Works of Nikolai Kondratiev* (Pickering & Chatto, four vols, £350) was published on July 14, 1998; that was a great 70th birthday present for me. The translation is by Stephen J. Wilson; the editors are Natalia Makasheva, Warren J. Samuels and Vincent Barnett. Now, at last, those who have been talking about Kondratiev for more than 60 years can read what he actually wrote. Elena Kondratieva died in 1995, but by then she knew her father's works were going to reach the English-speaking readership.

As one goes through his work one realises what an excellent economist Kondratiev was, certainly the most influential Russian economist of this century. Apart from his work on economic cycles, he was a first-rate development economist. At the end of the fourth volume, there is a selection of his tragic letters from prison. He was a scholar forced, by the history of his country and his time, to lead an heroic life. Even in prison he continued to work on economic theory. His last letter to his daughter was written a few days before his execution; it is very moving. "My dear darling Alenushka! I hope that as before you will study and obtain excellent grades. You will read good books. You will, as always, be a clever and good daughter. You will obey mother and never cause her distress. I also hope that you won't forget me — your father — entirely. I wish you health and happiness. I embrace you endlessly. Your father."

Kondratiev was anything but a naive economist. He had read widely in economic theory; he had even met the pioneering American economist Irving Fisher at a Chicago conference he was allowed to attend in the 1920s. He was highly professional, a statistician. He did not imagine that he had identified a long time cycle which had an invariable period, or recurred in an unchanging way. He thought that the evidence showed a "high probability" that prices, interest rates and business activity had falling and rising phases which lasted for about 20 to 30 years each. He thought he could demonstrate that from the evidence.

In summary, Kondratiev's 1926-patella Makasheva postulated the first rising wave from the end of the 1780s until 1810-17, a declining wave until 1844-51, a second rising wave until 1870-75, decline until 1890-96, a third rising wave until 1914-20 and then a probable decline which was continuing at the time he was writing, and indeed at the time of his death. If one accepts this scheme, how might one project it into the second half of this century? The declining wave continued until the start of the Second World War; thereafter there was a rising wave which reached its climax in 1970-73. The oil shock marked the beginning of the late 20th-century down-wave, which may be expected to come to an end early in the next century.

Some economists deny the existence of a long wave altogether. Yet Kondratiev was not the first economist to investigate it; in British writing, a long wave theory can be traced back through Jevons to obscure writers of the 1840s. Many other economists have thought that the world economy showed long periods of falling and rising prices and activity; it is as though the whole system breathes in and out, a generation at a time.

If one accepts, however approximately, the Kondratiev scheme, the world economy may now be coming to the end of a declining wave, which is marked by the sharp deflation in

Asia, and the low level of commodity prices. The good news would be that the decline can be expected, on this theory, to be followed by 20 years of rising economic growth; the bad news is that the turning point is more likely to come after a major stock market correction.

It can be objected that we do not know for certain whether a long cycle even exists, and cannot rely on its timing even if it does. Perhaps Kondratiev's most valuable contribution is his definition of the four "attendant conditions" which he thought both influenced and were influenced by the long wave. These are changes in technology; wars and revolutions; the involvement of new territories in the world economy; and fluctuations in goldmining. The last can now be disregarded, as gold has ceased to be the basis of world credit.

"For approximately two decades before the start of the rising wave of a long cycle," Kondratiev wrote, "revival of technical inventions is observed. Before and at the start of the rising wave, broad application of these inventions to industrial practice is observed with related industrial reorganisation." That sounds very like the present situation, with the rapid spread of the new electronic technologies. He also saw the involvement of "countries with a young culture (Australia, Argentina, Chile, Canada) in world economic relationships" as characteristic of the upturn. If the Asian troubles are the crash before a major recovery, that too would fit.

He also thought that the declining waves saw fewer wars and revolutions. If one counts the disintegration of the Soviet Union as a benign event, the past 30 years have indeed been the most favourable of the 20th century in terms of freedom from wars and revolutions. Most investors who talk about Kondratiev think that a world slump, a Kondratiev down-wave, is about to overwhelm us. The Kondratiev analysis is more likely to indicate that we are about to see the next rising wave, even if there has to be a final sell-off before that comes. The rising wave will spread innovations, global prosperity and perhaps new revolutions. In 1998, it is possible to read Kondratiev as an optimist.

Anatole Kaletsky is a writer.

Killing fields of Kosovo

James Pettifer says Nato must talk to Albanian separatists

Kosovo, at harvest-time, is roasting alive. Yet, according to *Politika*, the Belgrade government newspaper, it has been a successful harvest this year. But it is a harvest of pain. Mass graves are being found. Cows riddled with machinegun bullets bellow in their death throes. Wooden houses lost in cornflowers are in ashes. Tens of thousands of people are refugees in the woods and will soon run out of food and water. The sweet smell of hay is lost in acrid smoke.

Nato must act. There has been enough delay and the Belgrade military planners think that public opinion has become used to war. Although the cleansing of Kosovo does not resemble the open savagery of Bosnia, it is no different. A dignified society of conservative, proud Albanian peasants, who asked no more than to farm their land, is being cleansed just as efficiently as the victims of the Bosnian killing fields five years ago.

But the same siren voices from the same official quarters are being heard again, saying that President Milosevic is the only man we can deal with, that he is such a good politician he will run Serbia for 500 years (if he lives that long). They say that he does not really intend to drive all the Albanians away in as great an act of ethnic cleansing as in Bosnia and he regards the Kosovo Liberation Army merely as "terrorists". And that makes everything different, it seems, in the West. Underlying this fallacy is the view that the Serbs have always been the *Herrenvolk* of the Balkans, and that we try to control them, while they control the region.

This is meretricious rubbish. It is a moral issue. At the heart of the Western "dilemma" about intervention is the alleged moral equivalent of the two sides. But they are not equivalent. The Serbs are fighting a colonial war in Kosovo. Few live there any more.

As a foreign correspondent in the region I have known the KLA for three years; it is not now some Marxist/Muslim conspiracy funded by drug barons in Switzerland. This is the staff of John Buchan. The KLA is the Albanian population of Kosovo, no more, no less. It is made up of idealists, cynics, men, women, the old, the young, the desperate and the hopeful. So are all resistance movements. So was the TA-regiment my father joined in the 1930s when he knew the time would come to fight Hitler. One of his officers was Jewish and wanted revenge on fascism. Was that wrong? Shakespeare shows us that revenge can sometimes be the only form of justice.

The only KLA commander I know fights for justice. He is an Albanian who was dragged into the Yugoslav Federal Army to slaughter for a Greater Serbia at Vukovar. His commander, a well-known Belgrade criminal, held a gun to his head when he protested. He and three friends shot this man dead, went on the run, and helped to found the KLA in Brussels. Unless you are a complete pacifist it is his nation he is trying to defend, and he fights in a just war. It is the Serb colonial police who have been killing civilians for years in Kosovo, inflicting pain and lonely deaths in dirty cells. The West has done nothing. This awkward legacy of official indifference has to be faced. Serbia needs to be rid of this burden, on demographic and practical grounds.

And the dogs of war are reappearing. The Serb military understands the Western media better than it did. It recognises that piles of dead bodies on the BBC and CNN, as there were in Sarajevo, is no solution. So a subtle strategy is followed. It is "made known" that the army will come. Villagers flee in terror and their houses and animals are destroyed. All this in an area of subsistence farming, where animals are life itself.

Then the dogs of war appear. Fridges and washing-machines are loaded on lorries, the fruits of hard Albanian work are driven to Serbia. And a few Albanians are shot, as examples, where the media do not see them. Cleansing is easy, efficient, and involves few casualties.

The other reasons for intervention concern pure Western self-interest. Some 180,000 refugees, 70,000 of them displaced in the past fortnight, are likely to flood into Western Europe. It is dotty to suppose that taking out the KLA will allow negotiations with Albanian moderates who will persuade the Kosovans to stay in Serbia. And it is not in Serbia's long-term interests to keep an Albanian-dominated Kosovo; within 50 years Albanians could be a majority in Serbia. Serbia would be stronger without Kosovo.

After the past six weeks, no Albanian politician can stand for less than independence. Independence is the only course that will bring peace, with a transition period and internationally supervised guarantees for the Serb minority. The KLA is strong and has deep roots; it will not be beaten militarily. Perhaps there will be a Long March, which most guerrilla movements seem to need at some point. Perhaps the KLA will take issue with the former Communist Government in Tirana which is interrupting its weapons supplies. But the KLA is not going to disappear and the war will spread to Macedonia if Nato does not act. The West's eventual task will be much harder there.

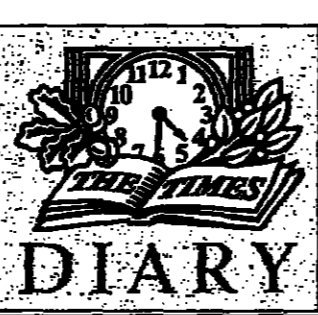
Rocco's rescue

SIR ROCCO FORTE is to do for books what he did for the prawn cocktail: the hotel magnate is behind a final attempt to save Richard Cohen Books, the plucky independent publishing house of Julie Burchill and Victoria Glerding (pictured), which is facing receivership. To the astonishment of associates, Forte, not noted as a literary type, has been stirred into action after reading in this column of Cohen's plight. He now intends to put aside his crusade to rebuild his hotel interests to help the award-winning small firm. Forte (pictured) has raised £300,000 with a bunch including the actresses Anna Massey and Sheila Hancock. Richard Cohen is grateful, but says: "We need another £200,000 or we will be sold or go into receivership."



● CALVIN KLEIN underwear has been removed from the seat of democracy. Archaeologists in Athens have rejected a request from Klein to stage a garish fashion show in the Ancient Greek marketplace. "You can't put a catwalk in the Agora," claims a local digger with the wisdom of his ancestors.

Village chump
THAT dashing fellow Richard E. Grant has been stirring local passions in the delightful village of



Straiton, South Ayrshire. He has been bounding around filming *The Match*. Straiton needed to look faintly 20th century. So the smutty was changed into a bistro and the village gained its first traffic lights. Roadsigns were changed so that deliveries were lost. Residents of the fictional Inverdunde claim it is a "gross inconvenience" but one confessed: "We felt rather special."

● THIS book might receive mixed reviews. Smelly Old History gives wiffs of a Roman urinal, a putrefying Egyptian mummy and an Elizabethan drain. The nipper of a reviewer was asked to sniff around. Result? He began to sway, then rushed outside to be sick.

Action replay
THEY thought it was all over. The BBC is to make a documentary

about the nation's grief after England's World Cup exit. Derys Blakeway, who made *The Thatcher Years*, plans to interview players, Glenn Hoddle and even Tony Blair to record just how parrot-like they all felt. Then there will be the books, one by Hoddle, the other, jollier effort, by Mark Palmer, brother of the biscuit baron Lord Palmer, who is writing *Lost in France*.

This refers to an incident outside Toulouse. As he left his car at the péage, he saw it speeding down the autoroute; he had not put the handbrake on. "I had to chase after it with cars honking and swerving out of the way," says the engaging Palmer. "I had to be quicker than Michael Owen."



"Hallucinations — he thought he saw a trainee nurse!"

● FOR a woman who likes a bit of posh, Baroness Jay of Paddington has shown rare restraint: she will not call herself Lord Privy Seal, the ancient title of the top bod in the Lords. Baroness Young, who held the title under Margaret Thatcher, is irritated by this egalitarian gesture: "It is a great honour, one of the oldest titles in British politics."

Spicy read
DIANA, Princess of Wales, was a fan of Jay McInerney, or so the hip New York novelist, obsessed with drugs and sex, claims. "She liked my work," he tells me. "She liked the naughty bits. She used to get friends to read them over the phone." Naughty bits, I should make clear, are McInerney specialities. Oral sex, lesbian sex, too much sex, it's all in his books. We fears that Dame Barbara Cartland, who is supposed to have excised an adolescent Diana's literary passions, would not approve.

Written out
THIS week's Editor at *The Observer* has already pricked the vanity of his pin-up political columnist, Roger Alton's ceaseless promotion of Will Hutton and Andrew Marr as the paper's top political gundings has not pleased Andrew



Rawnsley, the Beckham-quilted television presenter who also bangs on a bit in *The Observer*. It all became too much, I gather, when Rawnsley accused his new boss of being a "Widowmaker".

● JIMI HENDRIX's ex-girlfriend, Kathy Etchingham (pictured with him), has written *Through Gypsy Eyes*. She says the guitarist was hardly the sex god of fans' imagination: "He was a wham-bam, legover and rollover sort of guy." She still explores exotic foliage, which he encouraged: "I'm a member of the Royal Horticultural Society and I always look for rare plants."

JASPER GERARD

ARTICLES

EVESON AG

DON'T BRING



ARTICLES OF FAITH

A surprisingly trenchant verdict from the Lambeth Conference

Nobody witnessing yesterday's impassioned debate at the Lambeth Conference could doubt the importance that the issue of homosexuality has assumed in this decennial gathering of the leaders of the Anglican Communion.

To lament that sexual politics has been permitted to dominate and distort the agenda, deflecting attention from the vocation of Anglicanism in the world, is to miss the point.

The Lambeth Conference has never aspired to more than moral authority over its autonomous provinces; it has wisely sought to accommodate the many differing cultural traditions within which its clergy preach the faith in 167 far-flung lands.

Adherence to Scripture is one of the four "quadrilaterals" at the core of Anglican belief which were established a century ago at the 1888 Lambeth Conference.

Unrestricted international monitoring is more than ever vital

On July 21 the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) was driven from the town of Orahovac. Thousands of Kosovo Albanians fled with them, joining the 180,000 estimated to have left or been forced from their homes since Serbia's crackdown began in February.

In Kosovo's propaganda war, where lurid accusations stem from deep-rooted prejudice, the monitors' report will change few local minds. The Kosovans will remain convinced that an atrocity took place; the Serbs, that despite this show of evenhandedness, the international community is still against them.

Slobodan Milosevic, the President of rump Yugoslavia and architect of the current repression in Kosovo, has agreed to allow international bodies unrestricted access to the province. He has failed to deliver. Serbian authorities have consistently blocked attempts by UNHCR and the International Committee of the Red Cross to reach the refugees they know about, and to locate those they do not.

wider debate about how the Bible should be interpreted in modern society. In seeking to reflect both biblical truth and the spirit of Christian charity, mere agreement to disagree would have been not only a shirking of Christian duty, but a source of anguish that would, especially although not exclusively within the devout and rapidly expanding African dioceses, have weakened the cohesiveness and integrity of Anglicanism.

Yesterday's resolution, adopted by an overwhelming majority, was a surprisingly and uncharacteristically trenchant dismissal of the liberal position. There was indignation that the original official text, condemning homophobia while making no reference to homosexuality, was at odds with the more conservative text drafted by the relevant committee.

The final version states that "abstinence is right for those who are not called to marriage", rejects homosexual practice as "incompatible with Scripture" and opposes the blessing or ordaining of "those involved in same-gender unions".

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EYES ON KOSOVO

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province's population have left their homes - 70,000 in the past week alone. The lucky ones have found shelter in farms ringed by trenches, stretching their kinsmen's capacity to provide. Every Serb attack makes people homeless for the second or third time, perhaps within weeks. Many have taken to the forests, where the Serbs will not go. It is the height of summer; food and water are in short supply; sanitation is non-existent. An epidemic among the defenceless will thoroughly discredit Belgrade's case.

Meanwhile, the EU's monitors have been restricted to where the Serbian Government feels it is safe for them to go. This has kept them out of areas where fighting was under way - as in Orahovac last month - and others where the Serbs are simply too embarrassed to have the limits of their control, and the breadth of the KLA's appeal, revealed.

Above all, disclosure would make for restraint. Mr Milosevic does respond to international pressure; without the threat of Nato intervention his crackdown on the KLA would have been far bloodier. Nato is not ready to commit itself to intervention before a cohesive policy emerges, or a large-scale atrocity (such as Orahovac might be) demands a response. But the outside world can make sure that it alleviates the suffering. The EU and humanitarian organisations must insist on doing their work.

DON'T RING OFF

The telephone box is part of social history

With all the arrogance of a latter day Marie Antoinette, a France Telecom official has announced a proposal to phase out telephone boxes in rural France. Let them use mobiles, the company suggests. Understandably a revolutionary rabble is aroused. The cabine telefonique may be an ill-favoured structure in concrete, metal and glass, but the paysans of the French provinces still want to gossip with distant friends. Public service, they argue, should not be sacrificed for the sake of profit.

The telephone box is an irreplaceable part of social history. It provides a point of refuge in an estranging world. Far better than the mobile phone which, with brash disregard for good manners, spills personalities all over the surrounding public, phone booths provide a moment of privacy. Romances are nurtured in them. How many happy married couples turn with a goopy glance as they pass the old kiosk where, in their courting days, they scurried to make amorous calls out of earshot of others? How many errant teenagers pop quickly in to make reassuring contact with a worried mum? The payphone at the end of the café

bar, the hooded booth in a rowdy concourse, the glass partition allowing wind and rubbish to whip around the ankles, do not offer the same safe-haven. In the country the telephone kiosk is at the hub of village life, a precious line of communication to the outside world. Martha, once a central character in the Radio 4 series, The Archers, knew this: She installed a carpet and flower vase in the Ambridge phonebox, ensuring that callers felt more at home.

In London, the early crimson kiosks designed by Sir Gilbert Scott, with their Soanian roof-arches and Neo-Georgian windows, were not just cubicles for commerce. They were emblems of the capital. The outcry that resulted when British Telecom removed them quite rightly resulted in many being reinstated. And even in the design of its modern boxes BT has abandoned the cold angularity of an initial model, for a softer more hospitable design with seat and writing shelf. It is working to put comfort over simple function.

True the kiosk can be misappropriated. It sometimes, unfortunately, serves an alternative role as a public lavatory or a gallery for call-girls' cards. Yet this is hardly a problem in rural France. France Telecom should put public service over profit and ring the changes on its decision.

Peril of 'cronyism' in high places

From the Director of the Industry and Parliament Trust

Sir, The appointment of Gus Maddonald as junior Minister in the Scottish Office ("Big gun misfires", leading article, August 5) has provoked a debate on parliamentary democracy, accountability and cronyism. But it highlights another fundamental issue - the shortcomings of the increasing number of professional politicians elected to Parliament.

This trust's political service initiative, which is supported by the Speaker, the Lord Chancellor, the main party leaders and the chief executives of over 50 British businesses, aims to encourage the political parties to look favourably upon those with business experience, when selecting candidates. It also encourages business to treat political service in the same light as community service.

Surely if more MPs had experience of business and industry, Mr Donald Dewar would have had more chance of finding his minister from the back benches.

Yours sincerely, F. R. HYDE-CHAMBERS, Director, Industry and Parliament Trust, 1 Buckingham Place, SW1E 6HR, August 5.

From Mr P. Higson-Smith

Sir, In contrast to your leading article today, I applaud the appointment of ministers such as Gus Macdonald who have a track record of achievement in the world outside politics. The executive posts in national and local government have for far too long been the province of politicians who often have no experience of the departments that they are meant to control and are entirely dependent on the briefing of their civil servants and officers.

Yours faithfully, PETER HIGSON-SMITH (Northamptonshire councillor, 1989-97), Yew Tree Farmhouse, Easton on the Hill, Nr Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 3LR, August 5.

From Mr E. S. Hooper

Sir, The friendship of Cabinet ministers is no more a disqualification from government office than being sent to Parliament by a tartan rust-belt constituency is a qualification.

Yours faithfully, STANLEY HOOPER, Thurlow House, Epworth, Doncaster DN9 1JU, August 4.

Countryside interests

From Mr George Bowyer

Sir, I think Mr C. Fairfax, Director of the Countryside Protection Group (letter, July 31), who so readily dismissed the "countryside" record, Guardians of the Land, should reconsider. Its purpose is to highlight the plight of the countryside - the same purpose as that of the Countryside March on March 1.

Mr Fairfax questions the Countryside Alliance's effectiveness on vital rural issues such as transport and schools. On the eve of the march the Government announced that all planned closures of rural schools must be cleared with central government (reports, March 2) and, shortly after the march, the Chancellor committed £50 million to rural transport as a gesture of future intentions (report, Budget speech, March 18). I am sure these events were not unconnected.

Yours sincerely, GEORGE BOWYER (Lyricist and singer of Guardians of the Land), Laundry Cottage, Weston Underwood, Olney, Buckinghamshire MK46 5JZ, July 31.

From the Chairman Elect and Deputy Chairman of the Countryside Alliance

Sir, Mr Fairfax's letter implied that the resignation of the Countryside Alliance's chief executive indicated a failure to broaden the organisation's horizons. This is most emphatically not the case.

All board members are fully committed to the broad objectives of championing the countryside, country sports and the rural way of life. We are confident our staff and the thousands of members and volunteers who have worked tirelessly over the last year enthusiastically share this view. No one should underestimate their continuing resolve to ensure that rural options are heard.

Yours faithfully, JOHN JACKSON, Chairman Elect, BILL ANDREWS, Deputy Chairman, Countryside Alliance, The Old Town Hall, 367 Kennington Road, SE11 4PT, August 3.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Trial by jury: fundamental right or unnecessary cost?

From Mr Nigel Pascoe, QC

Sir, Trial by jury (leading article, July 30) is not a political option or simply the concern of cost-saving legislators. At the heart of it is a fundamental people's freedom: decisions by the people for the people, as available to Members of Parliament as to their least assertive constituents. That should be the starting point to any constructive discussion on the future of trial by jury.

Do we really want to deny that right in smaller cases to those with a previous conviction?

Surely the Bar can be acquitted of the baser motives which your leading article imputes. We are concerned with many other organisations to bring home the potential threat to such a freedom, even when clothed in reasonable and moderate language.

Ultimately this is one issue which must not be spun into insignificance. Yours faithfully, NIGEL PASCOE (Chairman, Public Affairs Committee), The General Council of the Bar, 3 Bedford Row, WC1R 4DB, July 30.

From Mr Jeffrey Young, JP

Sir, Your leading article says that an individual's reputation, as well as liberty, may be better safeguarded by jury trial for minor offences.

As a magistrate of 20 years' standing I do not think I have ever come across a case where a defendant has elected trial by jury because of the likely loss of reputation. In fact a trial by jury is likely to attract more publicity and do more damage to one's reputation than if it is dealt with in a magistrates' court in a low-key manner.

The main reason in my experience for people to elect trial by jury for petty offences is in the reasonably sure knowledge that the CPS is likely to ultimately withdraw the prosecution because of the expense involved in a jury trial.

Yours faithfully, JEFFREY YOUNG, 18 South Molton Street, W1Y 1DD, July 30.

From Mr Robert Rhodes, QC

Sir, Once again the Home Office is minded, on grounds of supposed wasted cost, to abolish a defendant's right to elect trial in cases which can be tried either by magistrates or a jury. The Government and the public would do well to recall the words of that great 18th-century jurist, Sir William Blackstone (Commentaries on the Laws of England, vol 4, p350): However convenient the abolition of jury trial may appear at first (as doubtless all arbitrary powers, well executed, are the most convenient), yet let it be again remembered, that delays, and little inconveniences in the forms of justice, are the price that all free nations must pay for their liberty in more substantial matters.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT RHODES, 4 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4Y 7DL, August 1.

From Mr Timothy MacAndrews, JP

Sir, A man stands accused of stealing, for example, a chicken pie from a supermarket (value, say, £2.99). He is brought before his local magistrates' court. The CPS and the magistrates believe that he should stand trial summarily (ie, at that magistrates' court) but the defendant elects trial by jury. Cost to the taxpayer of this whim? I understand an average figure of £13,500 for a contested jury trial. Frequency of such a scenario? Every day in magistrates' courts throughout this land.

It should of course be the magistrates who decide, based on their sentencing powers and representations, where such cases are to be heard. Such an option should not be available as a tactical manoeuvre by a defendant's counsel on the belief (rightly or wrongly) that a client may have a better chance of "getting off" in the Crown Court.

I applaud the proposal for magistrates to veto such an option by defendants for a range of relatively minor offences. The current system is abused and costly. Reform is long overdue.

Yours etc, TIM MACANDREWS (Chairman, West London Division Magistrates Court), 12 Edinborough Mews, Hammersmith, W6 0LL, July 30.

From Mr Michael Heavey

Sir, The first sentence of your leading article is incorrect: the right to trial by jury is not one of the "golden threads of British justice". It might be considered a golden thread of the English and Welsh legal systems but there is no right of trial by jury in Scots law. The decision in each case is made by the Lord Advocate (and his office) allocating the level of court which will hear the case.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL HEAVEY, Flat 5, up the conveyoff of the north-west corner of Edinburgh EH8 7RY, July 30.

More pleasing memorial for Diana

From Mrs E. Buckley Sharp

Sir, Anne Robinson (Weekend, July 25) rightly pointed out the failure to distribute to local residents and visitors questionnaires about the proposed memorial garden for Diana, Princess of Wales (report and leading article, July 10; letters, July 14).

On July 28 I endeavoured to collect from an office at the Albert Memorial visitors' centre enough forms for our local residents' association, of which I am secretary, but the official in charge said she was only authorised to issue a maximum of five. That office closed on July 31 although I understand that forms are available for a mere week longer at Kensington Town Hall.

It would appear that the memorial committee, chaired by Gordon Brown, and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport may be trying to push this proposal through after paying only lip service to the promised consultation process.

The questionnaire, as things stand, will be completed mostly by visitors, many of whom are foreign tourists. They will be less aware than others of the environmental impact of the estimated thousands of visitors to the Diana Memorial Garden.

Yours faithfully, ERSEL BUCKLEY SHARP, 17 Abbotshury Close, W14 8EG, August 1.

From the Chairman of the London Historic Parks and Gardens Trust

Sir, The world will always identify memories of Diana, Princess of Wales, with Kensington Palace Gardens. She was a person of great energy, who loved people, movement and life. Not only were the gardens the surroundings of her home, but she also used them for exercise and enjoyment.

Sanctions on Iraq

From Mr Gerald Kaufman, MP for Manchester Gorton (Labour)

Sir, Your leading article on Iraq today is absolutely right. We must not be deceived by Saddam Hussein's propaganda nor browbeaten by the bluster of his surrogate, the appalling Tariq Aziz. Until Iraq demonstrates total compliance with UN Security Council resolutions, sanctions must be maintained and enforced fully.

What is extraordinary and deplorable is that, almost eight years to the day since Iraq seized Kuwait with much killing, torture, looting and destruction of property, this confrontation continues without any shame on Iraq's part. Nearly eight years after the relevant resolutions were passed, Iraq has not complied with them and shows no signs of complying with them.

The United Kingdom and United States governments must oppose, and if necessary veto, any attempt in the Security Council to relax sanctions. Unless Iraq demonstrates a hitherto invisible readiness to behave like a responsible world citizen, it seems to me inevitable that, sooner or later and preferably sooner rather than later, comprehensive military action must be taken under existing Security Council resolutions which quite certainly authorise such action.

Yours sincerely, GERALD KAUFMAN, House of Commons, August 4.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

V&A modernisation

From Mr Christopher Wilk

Sir, In an otherwise generous article on the V&A's exciting project to transform its British Galleries (Arts, July 22), your correspondent reported some concerns which are unfounded.

The layout of the new galleries is hardly "minimalist": 3,000 objects are to be shown when the galleries reopen, the same number as currently on view. However, in order to introduce 2,000 objects never before seen in these rooms, others will have to be displayed elsewhere in the museum.

This will give us the first opportunity in half a century to let our visitors see some of the nation's richest and grandest treasures, including James II's wedding suit, the towering state bed from Melville House, an 18th-century court dress and William Morris tapestries and carpets - none of which has ever been on permanent view in these galleries.

The plans cannot possibly be interpreted as "dumbing down" or creating a "glorified theme park". The new galleries will be far more ambitious and intellectually challenging than they are at present, at the same time as providing for the needs of the widest possible audience. Heritage Lottery Fund support reflects the seriousness of our undertaking and the value of the project to the nation.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER WILK (Chief Curator), Department of Furniture and Woodwork, Victoria & Albert Museum, SW7 2RL, c.wilk@vam.ac.uk, July 23.

Summer at last?

From Mr George Scales

Sir, During the Second World War, however hot it was ashore when we left Liverpool to join our escort group, it was always rough by the time we picked up the conveyoff of the north-west coast of Scotland. With the Gulf Stream, prevailing winds over 3,000 miles of Atlantic Ocean and a great land mass to the East, it was not surprising the weather in Britain follows no set pattern.

The last ox-roast on the frozen Thames was in 1814; the years 1903-07, were the hottest known; and in 1974 the land was so wet we had three tractors pulling a single-row potato harvester and had to hitch a crawler tractor to the combine to pull it through the flooded wheat crop.

Nigel Hawkes ("A sunless summer? It's the weather's fault", August 3) says "Britons want more than a sight of the Sun. They want explanations." For global weather pattern changes, I suggest he doesn't start here!

Yours faithfully, GEORGE SCALES, Scales Farms Limited, Cobbler's Pieces, Abbeystead, Ongar, Essex CM5 0UJ, August 4.

From Mrs Lindy Price

Sir, I have two outstanding forecasts of the weather. Until today Lysander was lying on the back of the Aga; Hector was in a box on the top of the refrigerator, where the warm air is. They are ginger cats.

Now they are lying in the sun on the carpet. I don't need to take advice anywhere else.

Yours faithfully, LINDY PRICE, Moor Park, Llanbedr, Crickhowell, Powys NP8 1SS, August 5.

From Miss L. R. K. Webb

Sir, Having spent most of July in the high Arctic, where it was warm and sunny, I can only commiserate with those who were at that time experiencing the standard English summer.

Yours faithfully, L. R. K. WEBB, 29 Thursty Road, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 5PB, August 3.

From Mr Maurice Taylor

Sir, Compare thee to a summer's day? Now that's going back a bit!

Yours sincerely, MAURICE TAYLOR, 22 Claremont Hill, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1RD, August 3.

Seasonal headwear

From Mr Alan G. Child

Sir, I have recently taken to wearing a hat in the winter months, a fedora, and for summer, a Panama.

This year, the outings for the Panama have been very frequent, apart from a recent visit to the Expo exhibition in Lisbon. During the course of seven days I observed not one similar hat being worn, though baseball caps were everywhere.

I relish being part of an exclusive group. But I cannot help wondering where the other members are.

Yours faithfully, ALAN G. CHILD, Station House, Watlington, Kent ME18 5EA, August 3.

Killing fields of Kosovo

James Pettifer says

James Pettifer says

James Pettifer says

James Pettifer says

James Pettifer says

James Pettifer says

James Pettifer says

James Pettifer says



COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE August 5: The Queen arrived at Dyce Airport, Aberdeen, this afternoon and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Aberdeen (Councillor Mrs Margaret Farquhar, the Lord Provost).

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Gilbert Gilkes & Gordon, Kendal, Cumbria, at 11.15am. The Princess Royal will attend the Royal Naval Sailing Association's annual reception on the lawn of the Royal Yacht Squadron, The Castle, at 6.30pm; as patron, RYA Sailability, will present the Sailability Skandia Life Sonar Cup and IBM Sailability award at the Skandia Life marquee, Cowes Yacht Haven, at 7.35pm and as patron, RYA Sailability, will attend a dinner at the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club, Castle Hill, Cowes, at 7.55pm.

The College of Law Legal Practice Course Results, 1998

The College of Law regrets that there were some omissions in its LPC results published on Monday. The following results should have been included in the list:

London Full-time course Harris DM #: Seradi M #: Smith SN #.

Part-time course Osborn FM.

= commendation.

The College apologises for any disappointment caused.

Baron Sawyer

The life barony conferred upon Mr Lawrence Sawyer (known as Tom Sawyer) has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Sawyer, of Darlington in the County of Durham.

Baron Bragg

The life barony conferred upon Mr Melvyn Bragg has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Bragg, of Wigton in the County of Cumbria.

was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire (Captain Colin Farquharson of Whitehouse).

CLARENCE HOUSE August 5: Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was present this evening at a Reception given by the Church Army at St James's Palace.

The Lady Angela Oswald and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE August 5: The Prince Edward today launched the Scottish Powers video promoting the Glasgow Climbing Centre, Paisley Road West and was received by Mr John Young (Deputy Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow).

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Matthew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury 1534-75; Norwich, 1504; Nicolas Malebranche, philosopher, Paris, 1638; François de Salignac de la Mothe-Fénelon, theologian, Périgord, France, 1651; William Hyde Wollaston, physician, East Dereham, Norfolk, 1766; Daniel O'Connell, 'the Liberator', Cahirciveen, Co Kerry, 1775; Alfred Tennyson, 1st Baron Tennyson, Poet Laureate 1850-92, Somersby, Lincolnshire, 1809; Rolf Boldrewood (Thomas Alexander Browne), writer, London, 1826; Sir Alexander Fleming, bacteriologist and discoverer of penicillin, Nobel laureate 1945, Darvel, Strathclyde, 1881; William Slim, 1st Viscount Slim, field marshal, Governor-General of Australia 1953-60, Bristol, 1891; Robert Mitchum, film actor, Bridgeport, Connecticut, 1917.

DEATHS: St Dominic, founder of the Dominican Order of Friars, Bologna, 1221; Anne Hathaway, wife of William Shakespeare, Stratford-upon-Avon, 1623; Ben Jonson, dramatist, London, 1637; Diego Velázquez, painter, Madrid, 1660; David Allan, painter, Edinburgh, 1796; Sir Cedric Hardwicke, actor, New York, 1964; Giovanni Baista Montini, Pope Paul VI 1963-78, Castelgandolfo, 1978; Marino Marini, sculptor, Viareggio, Italy, 1980.

The dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire, 1806.

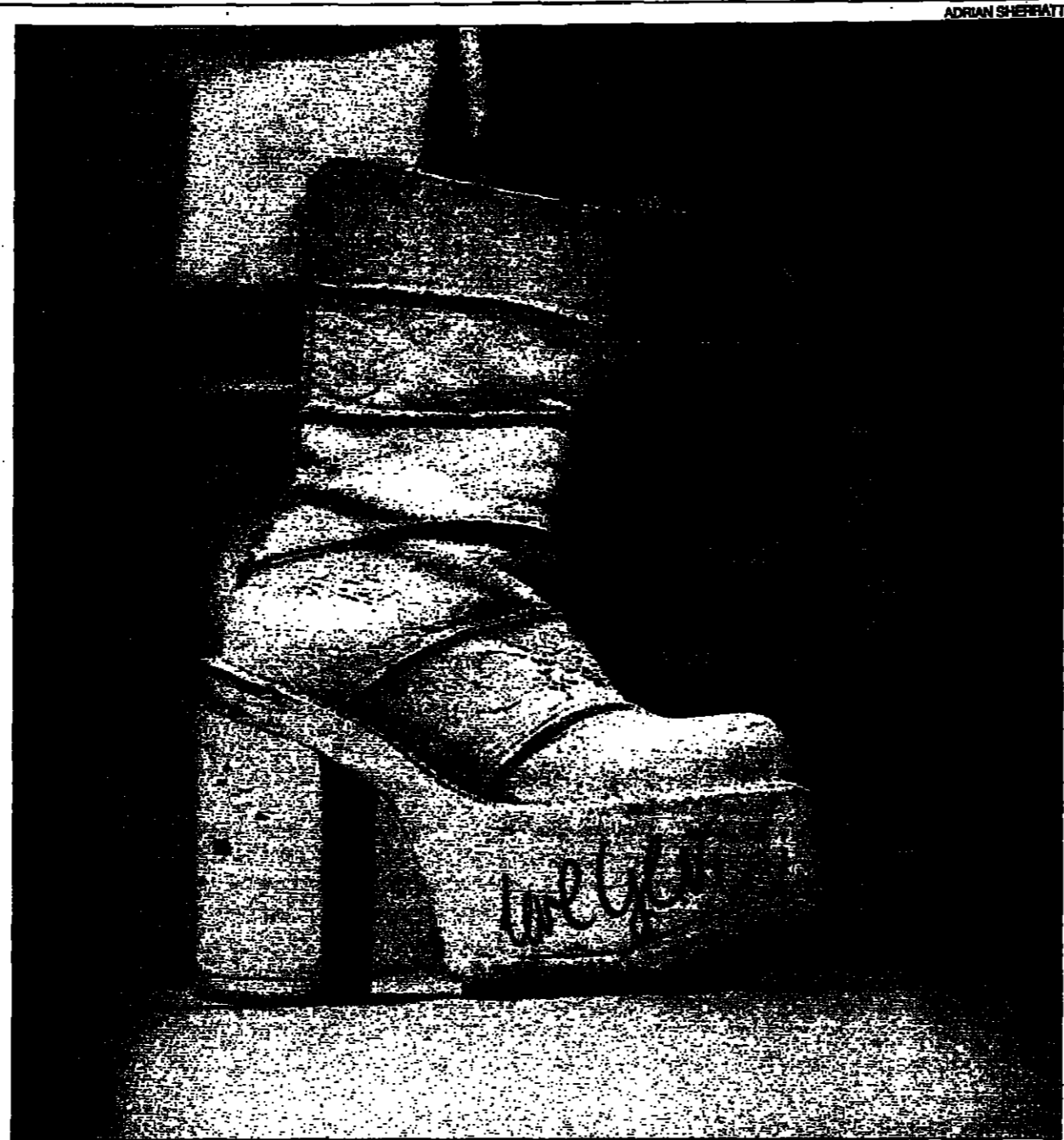
The electric chair was used for the first time to execute the murderer William Kemmler in New York, 1890.

An atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima by the Americans, 1945.

Garden Party

Royal Homes for Officers' Widows and Daughters

The Mayor of Merton, Mr Roger Casale, MP, and the Vice-Chairman of SSAFA Forces Help were the principal guests at a garden party given by the Residents and Committee of the Royal Homes for Officers' Widows and Daughters held yesterday at Queen Alexandra's Court, Wimbledon.



The white platform boots that until yesterday belonged to Ginger Spice. They sold for three times the estimate

Sweet sole music to collectors' ears

By ALEX O'CONNELL

A SCRUFFY exterior and torn innards did not deter bidders in search of pop mementoes yesterday. The white platform boots belonging to Geri Halliwell, the former Spice Girl, sold for £1,100: three times the expected amount.

The boots were bought by an anonymous bidder at Bonhams auction of rock and pop memorabilia. Scrawled on the right ankle are the words "Girl Power Boots", written with a black marker in the former Ginger Spice's curly handwriting. The right heel and the zinc sole of the left boot bear her autograph.

Despite all the sweaty live performances they saw her through, the boots have retained the sort of pleasant smell usually associated with a tack room. It is unlikely that Halliwell, who probably bought the shoes for between £60 and £80, would make the same sort of

purchase these days. She has recently been favouring the Fifties look. Other items sold at the auction included a rare guitar played by Jimi Hendrix, which fetched £20,000. The Gibson Sunburst had been expected to fetch more than £40,000. Two acetates of Elvis Presley's first recording sessions in 1954 went for inflated prices. *That's All Right (Mamma)* fetched £16,500 while *I'm Left, You're Right, She's Gone*, sold for £6,500.

Scientists marvel at preserved iceman

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

NERVE tissue from a 5,000-year-old alpine iceman has been found in an extraordinary state of preservation. Even the molecular structure of the myelin sheaths that surround and protect the nerves in his leg has survived.

"After millennia in the sheets still display outstanding structural and molecular integrity, a feature never before demonstrated from any ancient remains," Michael Hess and his colleagues report in *Current Biology*. "The amino-acid and sugar composition, and even the spatial arrangement of these components, appear remarkably well preserved."

The iceman, nicknamed Ötzi from the valley where he was found on the Austro-Italian border in 1991, was recently moved from Innsbruck, where Dr Hess's team has been among many experts

examining the naturally mummified corpse and its clothing and possessions, to a specially built museum in Bolzano (formerly Bozen, capital of South Tyrol). More than 50 tissue samples were examined, but there was considerable decay at the subcellular and molecular level in most of them, the team say. Myelin was also identified from the brain, but only that around a nerve in the thigh was in an "essentially undamaged" condition.

"Our approach required only extremely small tissue pieces from this unique specimen," they say. Specimens smaller than a matchhead were used, frozen and labelled with gold compounds to identify proteins and carbohydrates, as well as myelin. The girls appear to have been given over many years. When he died, the Queen gave

Queen's gifts to her loyal gillie for sale

PERSONAL trinkets given by Queen Victoria to John Brown, her Scottish manservant, are to be sold at auction next month.

The Scottish-crafted jewellery demonstrates the deep affection the Queen had for her personal attendant and gillie. On many of her frequent visits to Scotland she would order local jewellers to craft pieces for the royal household, among them a series of items created for Brown.

Several of the pieces are expected to raise thousands of pounds when they go on sale at Gleneagles Hotel on September 1. They include a pair of gold locket clasps dating from about 1880, which contain photographs of Brown's parents and are expected to fetch £800.

The gillie appear to have been given over many years. When he died, the Queen gave

his family a gold and enamel stickpin engraved Victoria R I, which should fetch £500. She also had a gold and enamel stickpin mounted with a photograph of her "particular gillie", estimated at up to £1,500. It was inscribed with the name "From VRI" and a reverse locket contained a lock of Brown's hair.

The Sotheby's sale, one of the largest of Scottish jewellery, will also include cufflinks applied with a crown and buttons set with a stag's tooth. Scottish jewels, featuring large, stylish and bold designs, were incredibly fashionable in the 19th century.

John Brown was born on the Balmoral estate, where his father was a crofter, in 1826. He entered royal service when he was 22 and soon became the Queen's favourite gillie. Brown was then called upon to be her constant attendant when she stayed at Balmoral.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr E.L.D. Boyd-Carpenter and Miss A.L. Petralis-Dionisidis. The engagement is announced between Harry, son of Sir Thomas and Lady Boyd-Carpenter, of Chicheley, Berkshire, and Alexis, younger daughter of Mr Nicholas Petralis-Dionisidis and Mrs Hilary Sakkalidis, of Athens, Surgeons Licentiate M.D., Birmas, RN, and Miss J. Cameron. The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Drummond, of Welling, Cambridgeshire, and Julia, daughter of Mr Denis Cameron and the late Mrs Cameron, of Rainton Gate, Co Durham. Mr S.L. Fowler and Miss E.L. Kelly. The engagement is announced between Stephen, youngest son of Mr and Mrs John Fowler, of Romford, Essex, and Emma Louise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Kelly, of Ryal, Northumberland. Mr C.H. Norris and Youngs Marchioness of Bristol. The engagement is announced between Charles, son of the late Dr and Mrs Charles Head Norris, of Boston, Massachusetts, and Philippa, daughter of the sixth Marquess of Bristol, and daughter of the late Mr Anthony Sutton and of Mrs Sutton, of Folkestone, Kent. Mr M.F.D. Hicks and Dr A.E. Ward. The engagement is announced between Marcus, son of Mr Roger Hicks and the late Mrs Olivia Hicks, of Trewasick, South Hill, and Anne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Roy Ward, of Tempelwell, Liskeard, Cornwall. Mr C.J.A. Hunter and Miss J.M. Shakespear. The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs John Hunter, of London SW19, and Jocasta, daughter of Mr B. Shakespeare, and Mrs David Evers, of Notting Hill Gate, London. Mr P.J. Lambell and Miss E.C.A. Jennings. The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of Mr and Mrs A.J. Lambell, of Reigate, and Emma, second daughter of Mr and Mrs R.A. Jennings, of Reigate, Surrey.

Birthdays today

The Countess of Albemarle, 89; Sir Chris Bonington, mountaineer, 64; Mr Billy Boston, former rugby league player, 64; Mr Richard Buckle, writer and exhibition designer, 82. Mr Alastair Creamer, former Dean, London College of Music and Media, 39; Mr Ron Davies, Secretary of State for Wales, 52; Mr Michael Deely, film producer, 64; Mr J.H. Emlay Jones, former president, Alpine Club, 83; Mr Bill Entwistle, Editor, *The Economist*, 42. Mr John Evans, Chief Constable, Devon and Cornwall, 55; Mr Frank Finlay, actor, 72; Sir Arthur Guinness, 75; Sir Andrew Green, diplomat, 57; Sir Howard Hodgkin, painter, 66. Sir Freddie Laker, creator, Skytrain Air Passenger Service, 76; Sir Donald McCullum, engineer, 76; Sir David Madel, MP, 60; Mr Don Mintoff, former Prime Minister of Malta, 82; Mr David O'Brien, racehorse trainer, 42. Sir Duncan Oppenheim, former president, British American Tobacco Company, 94; Mr Jack Parnell, drummer, 75; Judge Valerie Pearman, 62; Mr Derek Prag, former MEP, 75; Mr John Reid, jockey, 43. The Marquess of Tweeddale, 51; the Right Rev Martin Wharton, Bishop of Newcastle, 69; Miss Barbara Windsor, actress, 61; Mr Charles Wood, writer, 66.

Marriages

Mr J. de Bono and Miss C. Marshall. The marriage took place on Saturday, August 1, at St Mary's, Cadogan Street, of Mr John de Bono, son of Professor and Mrs David de Bono, to Miss Caroline Marshall, daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Marshall, Father Allan White, OF, officiated, assisted by Dom Chad Boulton, OSB, and Father Jack Dalrymple. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Sophie Mackenzie Smith and Miss Hamina Robert. Dr Stuart Bernard was best man.

University news

Bath Mr Rupert Hambro, Chairman of J.O. Hambro & Company has been made an Honorary Fellow of Bath University. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Annabel Wingfield-Stratford, Miss Laura Aldrich-Blake, Mrs Jonathan Wyatt, Mrs David Head and Megan Head. Mr Alexander Powell was best man. A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent in Corsica.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

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BIRTHS WING - To Linda Quinn and Roy Wing, in Cardiff on July 27th, a son, Sean Morgan Wing, a brother for Callan, Charlotte and Iain. YOUNG - On Monday August 3rd 1998, to Fiona (nee Watson) and Richard, a son, James Richard John. DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES WYNNE-THOMAS - Ernest and Irene on 8th August 1938 60th Anniversary. Celebrations with love and congratulations from all your family and friends.

DEATHS BATE - Colin F., of Chesham, Bucks, died on 4th August after a year's battle fought with inoperable bronchitis and cancer. A wonderful husband and father. BAYLEY - Diana Elizabeth died on Monday 7th July 1998. Adored and darling husband of Ronald, beloved father and grandfather of Amanda and Tim, grandfather of Emma and uncle of James and Eileen. A family funeral has taken place. A service of Thanksgiving will be held, date to be announced. No flowers. Donations for a Gliding Memorial, c/o A.L. Sole and Son, Bishops Cleeve, Over Norton, Oxon OX7 5PP.

JACKSON - John Jackson, C.B.E., beloved husband of Winifred, died on 2nd August after a year's battle fought with inoperable bronchitis and cancer. A wonderful husband and father. LYONS - Dr (Marion) Faith Lyons, late of Wiltford, aged 90 years, on August 2nd 1998 at Balcombe, West Sussex. For many years reader in Medical French at Bedford College, London University. Much loved sister in law of Martin, Aunt of Robin, Anne and Margaret, Great Aunt and Great Grand Aunt. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Balcombe at 2.30pm on Friday 14th August. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, to National Kidney Research, c/o Macmillan, c/o Mrs J. Bewley, Funeral Director, 1/A Pickwick Rd, Corsham SN13 8BS.

MURDO - Lillian Anne (nee Lewther) (nee Bouch), wife of the late James Murdoch, died on 2nd August at home in Woking, Surrey, aged 90 years. She was the great-grandmother of sixteen. Died 3rd August 1998, aged 91 years, peacefully after a long illness. Funeral service at St Dunstan's Church, London Road, Letchworth on Tuesday August 11th at 12.00 noon. Cremation following at Gosses Crematorium. Cut flowers please and all further enquiries to Gloria and Gutteridge Funeral Directors of Letchworth. Tel: 0115 2518117.

WEBBER - On the 30th July 1998 peacefully at his home in Blandford aged 95 years. Much loved husband and father. Funeral service on Friday 7th August 1998 at 10.00am at St. Andrew's Church, Blandford. Flowers or donations to R.E.F. c/o Cooper & Son Funeral Service, 42 High Street, Blandford, Dorset DT11 9JG. Tel: 01258 22444 or 01258 22400.

PERSONAL SERVICES WANTED WANTED BEST PRICES paid for all unwanted books, records, tapes, CDs, etc. Free collection. Tel: 01753 821111. FREE 1997 checks, bank statements, postcards, etc. Free collection. Tel: 01753 821111. FREE 1998 checks, bank statements, postcards, etc. Free collection. Tel: 01753 821111. TICKETS FOR SALE ALL ANNE'S, AGNES, BERNICE, etc. Tel: 01753 821111. ANY TICKETS OUTSTANDING. Tel: 01753 821111.

Advertisement for 'To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880'.

NEWS

Bishops vote against gay tendency

The Lambeth conference delivered a resounding blow to the liberal tendency in the Anglican church with a dramatic swing back to traditional, conservative values on homosexuality and marriage. Bishops voted overwhelmingly against sanctioning the blessing or ordaining of practising homosexuals. They rejected homosexual practice as "incompatible with scripture" and demanded "abstinence" for the unmarried. Page 1

Injunction for former spy

Richard Tomlinson, the former MI6 spy, was served with an injunction preventing him from revealing any information about his past career within minutes of landing in New Zealand to start a new life "as a journalist". The decision to apply for an injunction was taken by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, after consultation with MI6. Page 1

Footballer's escape

The England and Newcastle United footballer, Stuart Pearce, was recovering from "minor injuries" hours after walking away from a road accident in which a lorry rolled on to his car. Page 1

Anniversary tours

Buckingham Palace will be open to the public on the first anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Last year tours were cancelled for a week. Page 1

Royal raider jailed

An armed raider who ended up in hospital when he tried to rob a member of the Jordanian Royal Family trained in martial arts was given an automatic life sentence. Page 3

Nurses' pay

Frank Dobson called for nurses' pay rises making clear that he wants to abandon the system of staged pay increases which has infuriated the profession. Page 4

Cowes crisis

Cowes Week is undergoing a radical overhaul because organisers, disappointed at falling entries for the Admiral's Cup, fear the regatta is losing its international prestige. Page 6

Turner's vale restored

An idyllic valley near Gateshead painted by Turner has been restored to its former natural beauty after being laid waste by pollution. Page 7

Cutting the cost of naval diplomacy

An historic Royal Navy tradition of presenting hand-painted wooden plaques to local dignitaries at ports around the world as a friendly gesture is the latest victim of defence cuts. Made by Gieves and Hawkes of Saville Row, at a cost of around £50 each, the plaques have been carried by every surface ship and submarine to help smooth the way on foreign shores. Page 1

Canute's defeat

Much coastal farmland should be abandoned to the sea and priority given to protecting towns. The Agriculture Select Committee calls for an "end to the centuries-old war with the sea". Page 8

Airbag warning

Airbags save lives in road accidents but they can also kill. Small people and children travelling in the front seats are particularly at risk. Page 10

UN backs down

The Security Council is showing no stomach for a new confrontation with Iraq and is expected to issue only the mildest rebuke when it meets today. Page 12

'Allo, goodbye

Telephone boxes may soon be phased out in rural areas of France, to the anger of unions and country people who say that a vital link is being cut simply to maximise profits. Page 13

Mass graves rumours

Belgrade began a desperate damage limitation exercise in Kosovo, attempting to quash persistent rumours of mass graves containing hundreds of bodies in the area around Orahovac. Page 14

Canadian 'apartheid'

An extraordinary agreement with a British Columbia Indian tribe has raised the spectre of racially separate development across all Canada. Page 15



Esther Plantinga, a Dutch student, enjoying the late-arriving English summer at Camden Lock, London, yesterday. Page 5

BUSINESS

Asda: The supermarket group is to challenge a European Court ruling on selling designer goods by setting up a stall in one of its stores that will sell goods bought on the banned grey market. Page 23

Banking: Standard Chartered recorded a sharp rise in provisions for bad debts to £189 million and told the market that it could see no improvement in trading across Asia. Page 23

Pay: The bosses of Britain's largest quoted companies enjoyed an average pay rise of 11 per cent during the past year. Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 103.6 to 5632.5. Sterling fell 0.3 to 104.0: rising from \$1.6331 to \$1.6364 and falling from DM2.9123 to DM2.8994. Page 26

Cricket: England begin the quest to win their first significant series for 12 years when they meet South Africa in the fifth and final Test at Headingley today. The sides go into the match 1-1. Page 44

Football: Manchester United and Arsenal came clean with an admission that they have been involved in discussions over a proposed European Super League. Page 44

Sailing: Cowes Week crews enjoyed another excellent day of racing but Nigel Bramwell's Sydney 46, Hawk, suffered from a torn mainsail. Page 42

Athletics: Solomon Wariso is celebrating the lifting of his Commonwealth Games ban and will run in the 400 metres in Kuala Lumpur next month. Page 40

Bruce to the rescue: In the week's big new film, Armageddon, Bruce Willis saves the world yet again from destruction by a hurtling asteroid. It's not a million light-years away from the plot of Deep Impact, says Geoff Brown. Page 31

Found in the park: Opera Holland Park has staged an exquisite rarity, Clea's bitter-sweet romantic opera, L'Aresiana. Page 32

Tharp's Americans: In the second Barbican programme, Twyla Tharp celebrates the pioneer spirit of early Americans. Page 33

Yo-Yo at the Proms: The great Chinese American cellist, Yo-Yo Ma, displayed his full gamut of musical and visual expressiveness playing the Dvořák Cello Concerto at the Proms. Page 33

Dr Thomas Stithford: Fleas; new drugs, air travel and infections: the benefits of vegetables. Page 16

Choppy waters: Tracy Edwards has sailed the world three times. But she feels a failure. Page 17

Familiar realities: Morning walk with the dog; dead garden in winter; unloading after shopping; the child doing homework in front of the telly... Valerie Grove on the realities of family life. Page 17

Reviews: John Mortimer enjoys a story from the jury room; Anthony Storr on the mystery of Khalil Gibran; Elaine Showalter describes Simone de Beauvoir's early passion; Christina Koenig enthralled by a first novel. Pages 34, 35



LINA HAMILTON-WRIGHT/HAWK BOOKS

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

EDUCATION

Tuckshops to the rescue of the independent schools' budgets

MEDIA

Has Country Life lost its way? Libby Purves sets out to solve a rural mystery

Best buys: Horse-riding for a child on the Norfolk coast; colourful weekend break in Antwerp; bargain week on Barbados. Page 36

The entire world has a vested interest in what happens to and within the United States. It is hardly surprising that the world looks askance as the American political system has been derailed by an issue of enormous triviality: whether President Clinton had sex with Monica Lewinsky and whether he lied about it. — The Irish Times

Preview: The Fifth Test (BBC1 and BBC2 from 10.50am). Review: There's little that most writers/factors/comedians enjoy more than a lacerating review of other writers/factors/comedians. Pages 42, 43

Articles of faith

The Lambeth Conference has revealed a readiness to grapple with the difficult and divisive that should carry the Anglican Communion with greater confidence into the third millennium. Page 19

Eyes on Kosovo

If the international community is not ready to commit itself to intervention before a cohesive policy emerges, or a large-scale atrocity demands a response, then the least it can do is make sure that it alleviates the suffering. Page 19

Don't ring off

The telephone kiosk sometimes serves an alternative role as a public lavatory or a gallery for call-girls' cards. Yet this is hardly a problem in rural France. Page 19

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

If one accepts, however approximately, the Kondratiev scheme, the world economy may now be coming to the end of a declining wave, which is marked by the sharp deflation in Asia, and the low level of commodity prices. Page 18

ROGER SCRUTON

The threat posed by the supermarkets is of a vaster order than that posed by other oligopolies. And it goes to the heart of all the things that most deeply concern us. Page 18

JAMES PETTIFER

A dignified society of conservative, proud Albanian peasants, who asked no more than to farm their land, is being cleansed just as efficiently as the victims of the killing fields five years ago. Page 18

Richard Dunn, television executive; Air Vice-Marshal Richard Ubes, test pilot; Peter Fairley, science correspondent; Zita Barnett, midwife. Page 21

Peril of "cronyism"; trial by jury; Diana memorial; countryside interests; summer; Iraq sanctions; V & A modernisation. Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,863

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 27 indicating the starting positions for the clues. The grid is a standard crossword format with black squares for non-letter positions.

A collection of crossword clues and solutions. Clues include: 1. One shouldn't go out in violent storm (9,4); 8. Superficial complaint from despicable person (4); 9. Fearless performance by English unknown (5); 10. Flag seen on automobile (4); 11. A Laotian moved to another part of Asia (8); 12. Be in awe of American hero (6); 13. Kitty initially sorting out key operators (6,4); 16. Flimsy object lacking good finish (4); 17. Women's poem about a neglected child (4); 18. Overhears the sound of second person's tears (10); 20. Conservative way to reverse decay in the House (3,3). Solutions include: ACROSS: 1. STORM; 8. COMPLAINT; 9. COURAGE; 10. FLAG; 11. LAOS; 12. HERO; 13. KITTY; 16. FLIMSY; 17. WOMEN; 18. TEARS; 20. CONSERVATIVE. DOWN: 2. ABOUT; 3. EXECUTE; 4. ARMS; 5. ORIGINAL; 6. CITY; 7. USEFUL; 14. GATHERING; 15. DROP; 19. DISAPPEAR; 21. PARKING; 22. STRENGTH.

Local Road and Weather conditions. UK Weather - All regions 0326 444 910. UK Roads - All regions 0326 401 410. Includes sections for Motorway by Fax, World City Weather, and Car reports by fax.

Swissair advertisement. Text: Fly with the youngest, smartest fleet in Europe. Includes the Swissair logo and the slogan 'the refreshing airline'.

General weather forecast for the UK. Text: District, Isle of Man: cloudy with light rain and drizzle in places. A light to moderate westerly wind. Max 21C (70F). Includes forecasts for various regions like London, Edinburgh, and Belfast.

Table of flight times and weather conditions. Columns include destination, time, and weather. Includes a section for 'FLY TO' with various flight options.

Map of the United Kingdom showing weather patterns. Includes symbols for sun, clouds, rain, and wind. Text: Changes to the chart below from noon: High A will drift slowly east; low M will remain slow moving; low F will move northeast.

Table of flight times and weather conditions. Columns include destination, time, and weather. Includes a section for 'FLY TO' with various flight options.

Large advertisement on the right side of the page. Includes the text 'Sha' and 'Donald aim rescue plant'. The advertisement is partially cut off on the right edge.

THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



BUSINESS Graham Searjeant on the way forward for Japan PAGE 27



ARTS Bruce saves the planet from Armageddon PAGES 31-33



SPORT Donald censured for speaking his mind PAGES 38-44

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 42-43

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY AUGUST 6 1998

Standard raises bad debt cover to £189m

STANDARD Chartered, the colonial banking group, yesterday unveiled sharply higher provisions of £189 million and warned there would be no immediate improvement in trading conditions in South East Asia (Richard Miles writes).

The first-half charge, which included a general provision of £30 million, led to a 4.4 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £405 million. Before provisions, profits rose 27 per cent to £605 million.

Rana Talwar, who takes over as chief executive from Malcolm Williamson at the end of September, said provisions for the region were "inevitable", despite the bank having closed 1,000 customer accounts over the last two years in anticipation of a downturn. Initially, the market reacted favourably to the announcement, pushing Standard Chartered shares nearly 2 per cent higher by mid-morning. But by the end of the day, the stock had lost these gains and closed down 20p at 603p.

Profits were much enhanced by revenues from dealing and foreign-exchange, which jumped 78 per cent to £238 million, although there is some evidence that volatility in South East Asia is fading. Net interest income rose 13 per cent to £756 million.

Of the £139 million specific charge for bad and doubtful debts, £26 million related to Hong Kong.

Standard Chartered said its provisions for Thailand and Indonesia were less than 1 per cent of total lending.

The interim dividend has been increased by 19 per cent to 6.25p and will be paid on October 16. Earnings per share fell to 25.8p from 28.8p for the same period last year.



As Wall Street traders turned into bears, Bobby Godsell, chief executive of AngloGold, brought an African lion on to the floor of the New York Stock Exchange to celebrate the first day's trading in New York for shares of a South African group. 'We were about six inches away from the lion, which was a very uncomfortable experience,' Mr Godsell said

Shares slip to six-month low

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

LONDON shares slumped to a six-month low yesterday as heavy losses overnight on Wall Street and renewed fears of an interest rate rise depressed the market.

The Bank of England's monetary policy committee (MPC) concludes its monthly meeting today, with economists believing the decision is still finely balanced despite growing pressure from the City and industry to leave rates on hold at the existing level of 7.5 per cent.

Two sets of economic data published yesterday failed to help clarify the economic position, with manufacturing output unexpectedly showing a rise during the second quarter of the year — which technically takes the sector out of recession — while the latest service sector data pointed to a gradual

slowdown though inflationary pressures remain acute.

The stock market began falling as soon as trade opened yesterday morning in response to the 300-point loss on Wall Street overnight. At its lowest point the FTSE 100 had slipped 164.7 points to 5571.4.

However, a calmer start to trading on Wall Street helped pull the market off its lows to close down 103.6 at 5632.5. The Dow wavered either side of neutral but was up about 50 points by the London close.

European markets were also soothed by confirmation from Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese Finance Minister, that Tokyo aims to push ahead with tax cuts worth a "large number" next year. Mr Miyazawa refused to put an exact figure on the package but admitted it would be more than the 6 trillion yen (£26 billion) already agreed. He added that he wanted a reduction in corporation tax from 46 per cent to 40 per cent.

Analysts are divided as to whether London is vulnerable to a big stock market correction, pointing to the fact that the market has already discounted much of the bad news and does not stand on earnings multiples as high as those on Wall Street. However, Jeremy Batson, head of research at NatWest Stockbrokers, took a bearish view. "The markets should recover their poise — but for how long? The big one is still out there."

The market is set for another nervous start this morning as traders anxiously await the Bank's decision at noon. The consensus in the City is that

rates will be left on hold this month. The Bank, however, is unlikely definitively to signal that rates have peaked and most analysts believe the rate cuts demanded by the manufacturing sector remain a long way off.

Fears about the inflationary and wage pressures simmering away in the service sector re-emerged after the latest purchasing managers' survey.

The overall activity index fell from 56.8 to 55.9 in July — the lowest level since the survey began two years ago — while the new business index also fell to a record low.

Evidence of a slowdown in the sector was, however, balanced by a rise in the employment and prices charged measures, signalling that labour market and inflation pressures remain acute.

Kevin Darlington, UK economist at ABN-Amro, said: "We guess that the MPC collec-

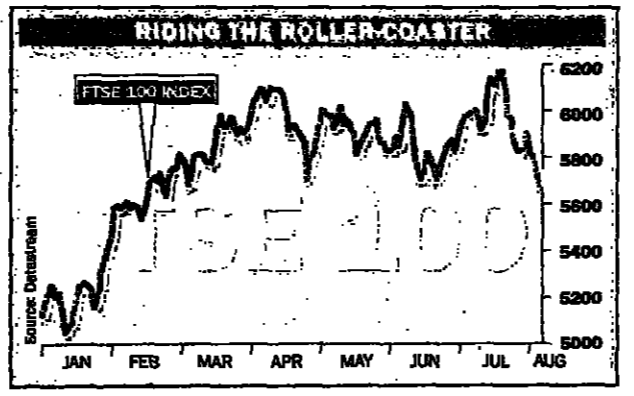
tively will just hold the line, but the obstinacy of cost and price pressures means that it is likely to be a long peak in the interest rate."

The separate industrial production data showed manufacturing output was flat between May and June, leaving the annual rate of growth 0.2 per cent lower than last year.

However, output rose by 0.1 per cent across the second quarter, meaning that in technical terms the sector came out of recession during the second quarter. Economists, however, described the quarterly improvement as a "false dawn".

Overall industrial production increased by 0.7 per cent in June after a 5 per cent surge in May as a result of the poor weather.

Commentary, page 25



BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES table with columns for index name, value, and change.

US RATE table with columns for instrument, rate, and yield.

LONDON MONEY table with columns for instrument, rate, and yield.

STERLING table with columns for instrument, rate, and yield.

DOLLAR table with columns for instrument, rate, and yield.

MONTHLY SEA OIL table with columns for instrument, rate, and yield.

SOLD table with columns for instrument, rate, and yield.

Tokyo close Yen 143.82

London close \$287.35 (\$286.85)

* denotes midday trading prices

Sweet-talking the analysts

Cadbury Schweppes, the sweets and soft drinks company, has put itself on course to meet tough performance targets. Pre-tax profits, ignoring one-offs, rose 6 per cent to £254 million for the six months to June 30.

Bid inquiry

The Takeover Panel is investigating share deals worth £155 million made by Laporte before yesterday's announcement of a recommended £611 million offer for Inspec, a rival chemicals group. The purchases may have violated rules designed to prevent bidders building up large share stakes in companies by stealth. Page 25

Macdonald aims to rescue plant

BY FRASER NELSON

GUS MACDONALD, the television chief who was this week appointed Scottish Industry Minister, is to lead the Government's attempt to revive Hyundai's mothballed semiconductor plant in Scotland.

After starting his new job yesterday morning, Mr Macdonald was immediately facing political pressure to help Hyundai to find a new partner after joint venture talks with Intel — revealed exclusively in The Times — broke down.

Raymond Robertson, chairman of the Conservative Party in Scotland, said: "Mr Macdonald must make it a top priority to find another company which can make use of Hyundai's existing facilities. It is important the Government do not let up in the fight to ensure the project goes ahead."

Hyundai sources in South Korea yesterday confirmed

that the company had been holding talks with Intel about a £700 million rescue package.

However, reports said that negotiations have now been called off, without any agreements being made. Lee Kwang-suk, a Hyundai spokesman, said: "We plan no further talks with Intel about the Scotland project, but co-operation in other areas is possible."

Christine May, leader of the Conservative Party, said she has yet to be convinced that the two companies have indeed cancelled plans to rescue the plant.

Mr Macdonald will preside over Locatis in Scotland — the inward investment agency that first lured Hyundai to Fife two years ago. He will also have responsibility for Scottish Enterprise — the agency that supports domestic business developments.

Chairman for British Biotech

BY CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH Biotech, the beleaguered cancer drug company, has appointed Christopher Harrison as non-executive chairman. Mr Harrison, currently chairman of RMC and a former ICI director, will be taking on a mammoth rescue operation in a company that has suffered a huge loss of credibility and seen its share price plunge by 90 per cent.

The new chairman, who is 66, will take over from John Raisman, who is retiring at the end of September.

The appointment has been anxiously awaited by the market following the turmoil caused earlier this year over allegations that key information had not been disclosed about clinical trials. The position of chief executive remains open.

Blue chip bosses see 11% pay rise

BY FRASER NELSON AND JULIUS CAVENTISH

THE BOSSES of Britain's largest quoted companies enjoyed an average 11 per cent pay rise last year after an alarming increase in annual bonuses, according to a report published today.

Among the heads of FTSE350 companies, 49 of them took home a basic £1 million a year and 21 enjoyed a bonus which was worth much more than their salary.

Incomes Data Services, an earnings consultancy, found that the gap between pay of blue chip companies and second-line stocks is also widening. The chief executive of an FTSE 100 company is paid an average £143,000 bonus, it said, against the average £86,400 handed out to their FTSE 250 counterparts.

Of the 350 chief executives surveyed, 35 were awarded a pay rise of 25 per cent or more.

Only 13 had no increase at all. Manifest, the corporate governance consultancy, said the trends show that shareholders are beginning to feel comfortable with the leaders of the largest blue chip companies being awarded the sort of salary levels more common in the US.

Adam Kay, its senior executive, said: "The pay difference between the top striker and the average worker has widened to something like 18 times. But the shareholders are making money and dividends are up. Why shouldn't the guys at the helm of the ship make money as well?"

The report highlights the £1.56 million bonus given to Ian Leschly, chief executive of SmithKline Beecham, which dwarfed his £824,000 salary. It also details the £1.27 million bonus given to Jim Fifield, former head of music at EMI.

Asda to challenge cut-price goods ruling

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ASDA, the supermarket group chaired by Archie Norman — who is also vice-chairman of the increasingly Eurosceptic Conservative Party — is set to challenge a European ruling today over the sale of cut-price designer goods.

Asda, which is based in Leeds, is set up a stall in one of its West Yorkshire stores offering brands bought on the banned grey market. The supermarkets group will also attempt to show

how much more customers have to pay if they shop in "posh stores", such as Harvey Nichols.

The European Court of Justice ruled two weeks ago that stores could not sell designer fashions, perfumes and other goods bought through unauthorised channels — otherwise known as the grey market — outside the EU. Until the ruling, Asda, Tesco and Sainsbury has been buying branded goods on the grey market, including Levi's jeans, Adidas trainers, Clarins skincare, Tom-

my Hilfiger leisurewear and Calvin Klein underwear, to sell in their stores at big discounts to high-street prices.

However, the supermarket plans to offer the cut-price goods in its Wakefield store today, and is even running a free coach to the sale from outside the Harvey Nichols shop in Leeds. The move is in direct defiance of the EU ruling. Asda refused to say which brands would be on sale at the store, or how many of them would be from outside the EU, for fear of injunctions

from manufacturers. "We cannot comment for legal reasons," a spokesman said. But he said that a range of goods including perfumes, watches, sunglasses, bags and ties from "some very, very well-known names" would be on offer.

Asda, which has a penchant for publicity stunts, will send staff dressed in top hats and tails to stand outside Harvey Nichols this morning carrying placards inviting shoppers to get on a coach to the Wakefield store to take advantage of the cut-price goods.

'Buy-to-Let' Mortgage New Exclusive Rate: 6.99% (9.4% APR) advertisement with contact information and a photo of a man.

Disposals plans lift shares of TDG

By Matthew Barbour

SHARES in Transport Development Group (TDG), the logistics and hire firm, rose 5 per cent yesterday after the company announced it is to carry on with its streamlining programme.

The group, which announced its refocusing plans in February, has already completed five of its seven planned disposals for £72 million. Alan Cole, chief executive, said the figure had exceeded the group's expectations and confirmed that the company is confident about discussions concerning the remaining two sales.

Mr Cole said: "We said we would raise around £70 million, and after the sale of the remaining two, which we hope to complete in the next couple of months, we will be looking at a figure more like £76 million."

Earlier this year TDG handed back £109 million to shareholders as part of the shake-up. After February's announcement the shares jumped up 32 per cent.

"We won't be orchestrating another cash share-out on that scale for some time," Mr Cole said.

TDG has sold off its tanker and plant hire operations as part of its effort to focus on its logistics division. Mr Cole added that the group would not be expanding far outside of continental Europe.

Half-year operating profits at the group came in at £18 million, up from £15.3 million. However, £15.6 million of the total was wiped out by restructuring costs to leave pre-tax profits at £1.4 million (£15.1 million).

Turnover increased by 4 per cent to £241 million (£231 million). The board has proposed an interim dividend of 4.75p, up from 4p, to be paid on October 1.

Shares in the company closed up 12p yesterday at 260.5p.



A real tonic John Sunderland, left, with Sir Dominic Cadbury, chairman, at the announcement of the company's results

Cadbury on course to hit performance targets

By Robert Cole, City Correspondent

CADBURY SCHWEPPEES, the sweets and soft drinks company, yesterday put itself firmly on course to meet stringent performance targets.

Some analysts in the City doubted whether Cadbury could live up to the goals it set earlier this year but interim profits published yesterday settled nerves. Pre-tax profits, ignoring one-offs, rose 8 per cent to £254 million for the six months to June 30.

Under John Sunderland, chief executive, Cadbury has pledged that it will double its share price in five years and record double digit annual growth in earnings per share.

Earnings per share in the half fell short of target but only because of the adverse impact of currency translations. Profits quoted on constant exchange rates grew 13 per cent.

The share price, which has been under pressure in recent weeks, also bucked the stock market trend and ended the day higher. Shares added 27p, or 3.2 per cent, to close at 86.4p.

Cadbury, manufacturer of Creme Eggs and Liquorice Allsorts confection and Dr Pepper and Oasis soft drinks, said that all its major businesses, comprising 80 per cent of the total, had secured at least 10 per cent growth in trading

profits in the half. The underlying trading profit margin also improved from 13.3 per cent to 13.9 per cent.

On the confectionery side Cadbury trading profits, at constant exchange rates, grew 8 per cent to £104 million but beverage profits compensated, rising 12 per cent to £154 million. The trading profit margin on beverages also grew faster, and is substantially more than for sweets. Beverage generates 17.2 per cent profit margin where confection produces 10.2 per cent.

The half-year dividend was lifted 5.5 per cent from 5.5p to 5.8p. Last full year it paid 18p.

It will be paid on November 20 as a foreign income dividend in order to minimise Cadbury's difficulties with surplus advance corporation tax.

The company reduced borrowing from £21 per cent in 1996 to 44 per cent at the end of the half, a shift that was helped by the £417 million injection after the sale of its share of the Coca Cola Schweppes Beverages joint venture.

Mr Sunderland said the company's financial position left it free to make acquisitions. He said if no appropriate deals materialise Cadbury may hold a share buyback.

Sotheby's profits boosted by Monet

By Dominic Walsh

RECORD prices for works by Claude Monet and Andy Warhol in the spring sales helped Sotheby's Holdings to its highest first-half earnings since 1990.

The auction house, which is listed on the New York and London stock exchanges, lifted revenues in the six months to June 30 by 16 per cent to \$215 million (£130 million). Net income rose by 20 per cent to \$27.3 million, equivalent to \$0.48 per diluted share (\$0.40). Excluding exceptional items, net income was \$26 million, or \$0.46 per share.

The highlight was undoubtedly the seven minutes taken by its London saleroom to knock down Monet's *Bassin aux nymphéas et sentier au bord de l'eau* for £19.8 million, reaping Sotheby's a cool £3 million. Its New York rooms weighed in with the \$17.3 million sale of Warhol's *Orange Marilyn* — four times the previous record for the artist.

All this is a far cry from last year when it appeared that Sotheby's could do nothing right, what with smuggling and auction-rigging allegations and glitches with some of its highest-profile sales.

Diana Brooks, president and chief executive officer, said total auction sales in the first half had risen 13 per cent to \$968 million, and there had been record performances from its real estate and financial services businesses. She added: "The second half of 1998 has begun well, with strong contemporary art, Old Master paintings and English furniture sales."

She added: "We are delighted that the two most expensive paintings of the spring auction season were sold at Sotheby's — the most expensive one in London and the second most expensive in New York. A strong spring auction market in the United States and excellent prices realised for several works of art in London contributed to a 13 per cent increase in first-half 1998 auction sales."

SR Gent sheds three factories and 530 jobs

SR GENT, the Barnsley textile clothing supplier to Marks & Spencer announced 530 job losses yesterday. Three factories out of six will be closed — at Sheffield, Doncaster and Barnsley. The company employs more than 3,000 staff and all have been put on 90 days' notice by £30.6 million by Marimutu Simivasan of the Teemaco Group. The management is currently trying to buy back the business for £32 million.

No reasons were given for the job losses, but Gerry Nelson, of the GMB union, blamed three things: the bad weather with low sales this spring; the collapse of the Pacific Rim market; and fierce competition for the pound. Marks & Spencer has also in recent years been importing clothes made abroad, reversing its "all-British" policy. Eric Illsley, Labour MP for Barnsley Central, said: "This news is devastating because many of the women are the breadwinners. Although Barnsley has an unemployment rate which is 2 per cent above the national average, the male unemployment rate is 25 per cent...because of pit closures."

Paramount bucks trend

SHARES in Paramount Foods, the troubled pizza-base and cooking sauces group, bucked the market trend by adding 21 per cent after its board bowed to a £28 million takeover bid from Greencore. Since flotation four years ago, shares in Paramount have borne the brunt of a series of profit warnings and failed bid talks. The shares, launched at 193p, hit a low of 62p in 1995. However, they closed yesterday up 25 1/2p at 145 1/2p. Greencore is offering 150p a share. Yesterday's announcement annuls the latest takeover bid from Paramount's management.

Moscow shares slide

SHARE prices fell 3.8 per cent in Moscow as investors showed little interest in the market dragged down by Asia's volatile markets, which in turn had been hit by Wall Street's falls. The main RTS index closed at 141.68 points, with the composite RTS-Interfax index down 3.77 per cent at 35.61. "It is global weakness that is causing the sell-off, though there is very little volume going through the market," Michael Portnoy, a trader at Rinako Plus, said the planned sell-offs of stakes in Gazprom and Rosneft had not excited the market.

Merrill Lynch in dark

MERRILL LYNCH, the US-owned broker, said that there were "no tangible trading losses" after a power shutdown yesterday afternoon. A Merrill Lynch spokesman, Neil Jenkins, said that the broker's London equities operation was almost completely shut down from 2:30 in the afternoon because of a power failure. He said losses were limited "because we had no significant trading positions," but he added: "There were lost opportunities for orders we were not able to do." Merrill executed a few trades in UK equities via its New York desks.

Jobs boost for ScotAm

PRUDENTIAL is to invest £15 million in a new head office for Scottish Amicable and create 500 jobs in the Stirling-based insurer it acquired last October. Recruitment for the new jobs in information technology, administration, clerical and actuarial departments will be spread over five years. Staffing levels will be raised from 1,800 to nearly 2,300. Roy Nicolson, chief executive of Scottish Amicable, said the expansion was necessary to cope with the rise in new business through independent financial advisers.

Yorkshire preferred

YORKSHIRE WATER, the privatised utility attacked for its poor record on leakages, has been named preferred bidder for a local authority waste disposal company in northwest England. Cheshire County Council and Halton and Warrington Borough Councils have selected the utility, which runs municipal waste management services and recycling in South Yorkshire through its Global Environmental division, as the most attractive buyer for 3C Waste. The deal is reported to be worth £80 million.

TEN funds increase

THE UK is to receive about £28 million from the EU for the development of transport Trans European Network (TEN) schemes and studies in 1998. John Reid, the Minister for Transport, said. The package is nearly £3 million more than last year. Mr Reid said 85 per cent of the funds will go to priority projects such as the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, which will receive £16.75 million, while £6.7 million will go to the West Coast Main Line. Others to benefit include Phase 1 works at Manchester Airport and the Cardiff airport access road study.

Crisis lifts oil price

CRUDE oil prices posted immediate gains yesterday after Iraq's parliament recommended an end to co-operation with UN weapons inspectors. Brent North Sea crude for delivery in September rose to \$12.75 per barrel in late afternoon trading, 7 cents above the opening price and 5 cents higher than Tuesday's closing price. However, analysts said that the rise in oil prices would be short-lived, given the gloomy fundamental outlook afforded by rampant production and low demand from Asia.

Sale at LucasVarity

LUCASVARITY is to sell its heavy vehicle braking systems business, which could raise about £120 million. The automotive and aerospace group said it was selling because it could not sustain a leading position in a rapidly consolidating sector. Victor Rice, chief executive, said there had been a number of expressions of interest. The division, which has its headquarters in Ohio but employs 900 in Cwmbran, South Wales, had sales of about £170 million for the year to the end of January 1998.

Hanson will pay £229m to fund US clean-up costs

By Adam Jones

HANSON, the building materials group, is paying £229 million to settle once and for all the future cost of pollution problems it inherited in the US.

Hanson is paying a one-off premium of £168 million including costs to two Swiss re-insurers, Zurich and Swiss Re, to take on the cost of cleaning up 119 sites after 2000. The re-insurance policy will pay up to £488 million to solve the problem.

The sites were polluted by Koppers, a subsidiary of Beazer, which was in turn bought by Hanson in 1991. The pollution, which includes soil and groundwater damage from crosstite, occurred before Hanson was involved.

Hanson will still have to pay an extra £61 million to cover planned clean-up work that will be carried out before 2000. However, Hanson will also be paid £73 million by Koppers's existing insurers. Since the eventual cost has turned out to be less than an accounting provision already made, a further £67 million will be released to the profit and loss account, making a total exceptional credit of £140 million.

Tadpole says talks may lead to deal

By Chris Ayres

TADPOLE TECHNOLOGY, the struggling laptop computer maker, yesterday suspended its shares after revealing that it was in talks which could lead to a "significant acquisition". Tadpole, whose chief executive is Bernard Hulme, said: "Following yesterday's rise in Tadpole Technology's share price and speculation in the press, the company announces that it is in discussions which may or may not lead to a significant acquisition. A further announcement will be made within a fortnight."

The company's shares have plunged from 398p in 1994 to just 7p in February after a series of shipment delays and profit warnings. Mr Hulme changed the company's strategy to concentrate on powerful notebook computers. The company's shares shot up again this year after rumours that it was about to sign a lucrative software deal. The shares were suspended at 18p.

WCRS wins battle for £20m Camelot account

By Jon Ashworth

CAMELOT, the National Lottery operator, has awarded its £20 million-a-year advertising account to WCRS, the agency behind BMW and Carling Black Label, in the face of stiff competition from rivals including M&C Saatchi.

The long-standing "it could be your" slogan will be dropped from advertisements, although Camelot has no plans to ditch its blue crossed-fingers logo. WCRS takes over in November, the lottery's fourth anniversary — from Saatchi & Saatchi, which was instrumental in the early success of the National Lottery. The account brought Saatchi £4 million in fees last year. Executives of M&C Saatchi performed much of the original work on Camelot and were eager to snatch the contract away from Saatchi & Saatchi, from whom they split in acrimonious circumstances. A Camelot spokesman said: "WCRS has a very creative approach to the brief. They had a good team and put a lot of work into looking at all the games."

The account is worth £15 million to £20 million in billings a year to WCRS, whose clients also include Land Rover, First Direct and Orange. Stephen Woodford, managing director, said: "The National Lottery is a great British institution and we've honoured to have been chosen brand partners in building on this success."

Table with columns for Bank, Buy, Sell, and various international exchange rates for currencies like Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, etc.

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WOOLWICH INTERIM RESULTS 1998. CONSISTENT STRATEGY PRODUCES CONSISTENT GROWTH. CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT table with columns for 1998, 1997, and 1997 actuals.

WOOLWICH WOOLWICH PLC. The advertisement contains only a summary of the interim results announcement issued by Woolwich plc on Wednesday 3 August 1998. Copies of the full statement can be obtained by writing to Woolwich plc, Registrar Services, PO Box 70, 1814 02Z, or by telephoning 081 301 0001.

Who really wants equities



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The bears may not yet have triumphed on Wall Street but the growls now sound serious. A raft of explanations has been offered for Tuesday's 3.3 per cent tumble of the Dow but whether one chooses to put the blame on a change of heart by a single soothsayer or a dawning widespread realisation of the potential impact of the Far East crisis is irrelevant. The fact is that equity markets, both in the US and the UK have been too high for too long. Forget wishful thinking about new paradigms, what goes up still comes down.

Some minds are coming to the conclusion that there is now a steep downside to the US and UK equity markets. Neither may be about to plunge over the precipice immediately: it may be that there is an alternative, and gentler, route downwards. But the trend is inescapably going to the south for the simple reason that it makes more sense to sell the market than buy. With yields at their current miserly levels — less than 3 per cent on the FTSE 100 — unless there is the prospect of capital growth, the cash would be better left in the bank.

The gloomiest pundits started saying this far too soon. Most famously, Tony Dye of PDMF — now rebranded as Phillips & Drew in a vain attempt to shrug off recent errors and regain past kudos — called the bottom of the market when the top was not even in sighting distance. Alas

for him, the markets will not fall far enough to justify his premature move out of equities. Nonetheless, it is the bulls who now sound out of touch with reality.

The frantic fumbling that amounts to Japan's efforts to deal with its mounting financial problems should be enough to panic investors. The riotous problems of the Asian economies have not approached their nadir yet. A devaluation of the Chinese currency seems increasingly unavoidable. Cheap imports will be flooding the Western world, and soon.

The Americans have remained remarkably sanguine about the potential fall-out from Asia. Those very same people who so bravely proclaimed the age of the global business as their investment bankers strode the world stage suddenly seemed to see things from a rather more insular perspective. But modern economies cannot be insulated and the Western world will feel the effect of Asia's pain.

Corporate profits are already recording the first bruises. They cannot justify the optimistic multiples on which their shares have been trading. Relatively quietly, the markets have already been re-trenching. The Dow has come

back 9 per cent from its peak and the FTSE an almost equal amount from its July record of 6,183.7, despite the valiant efforts of some who would like to defy gravity.

There is further to go, perhaps not a full blooded crash but maybe another 10 per cent. And until there is a pressing reason for believing that the markets have done their worst, those who can choose will not be left holding equities.

Living and learning in the tiger's den

Standard Chartered's results met with a mixed reception. The bank endeavoured to sound relatively confident about its ability to ride the Far East "tigers" in their new, ill-tempered and dangerous mood, and the scale of its provisions, while still chunky, indicated that it may have seen the problems coming sooner than some.

But investors have lost their enthusiasm for the stock. There was a flurry of interest after Malcolm Williamson, the chief executive, was spotted having dinner with Martin Taylor of Barclays, but the speculators moved on as it became increasingly apparent that Standard intends to remain an independent entity.

Yet it is possible to construct an argument that shows Standard as a potentially exciting player in the financial world. Incoming chief executive Rana Talwar certainly sees it that way. He intends to build on the bank's unique, if not always trouble-free, history to maximise Standard's position as the leading bank in emerging markets. That will mean expanding into some new territories as well as strengthening its presence in the old. The Middle East, Latin America and Africa will all be receiving a little more attention and the chances are that there will be acquisitions to bolster the work of the intrepid Standard

chappies who are used to being parachuted into strange lands.

Standard currently occupies the hardly distinguished slot as the world's sixth-biggest bank but it boasts that the profits it generates from its treasury operations come fourth in world rankings. On some fronts, however, it has failed to maximise a position built up over getting on for 150 years. Talwar believes there is more scope for the bank to position itself as a provider of strategic advice to companies which are keen to venture into unknown territories. Those contemplating a bottom-fishing expedition to Asia need to understand not just the companies they are buying but the people who run them and own them.

Bearing such lessons in mind, Talwar himself will soon be headed off to Singapore to make the acquaintance of the octogenarian multimillionaire who still holds 15 per cent of Standard and with it one of the keys to its continuing independence.

The thrice-married Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat is believed to be intending that his shares will eventually pass to his two daughters, so Talwar is also likely to take the precaution of becoming a regular at London's Royal Garden Hotel, another corner of his investor's widespread portfolio, currently run by Ms Tan Sri.

It 'Asda to be a bargain

Archie Norman is putting up a determined fight for consumers keen to buy designer goods at supermarket prices. The vice chairman of the Conservative Party knows a good publicity stunt when he sees one, and the prospect of a crusading grocer being prepared to risk imprisonment on behalf of his customers is a tantalising one.

But there is good reason behind the battle to beat the huge mark-ups which the designer brands fight so hard to preserve. When a pair of trainers can be stitched together in China for little more than a song, it is surely wrong that European law should intervene to stop those same trainers being sold for around £40 instead of more than £50.

When Brussels is so keen to insist on competition in other quarters, this move to protect inflationary prices seems out of step.

But while the customers may be cheering Archie on, analysts yesterday were wondering whether he might make a move in a different direction. The rumours that German firm Metro might be eyeing up Booker's cash and carry businesses sparked the suggestion that the sector may be due for another shake-up. Metro, which operates in a somewhat half-hearted manner, the Makro cash and carry warehouses in the UK, moved smartly to deny that it was interested in Booker but some doubt that it has much continuing interest in the UK. Its huge outlets, however, could provide valuable expansion space for Asda.

Right medicine

BRITISH BIOTECH has a new chairman. How brave of Chris Hampson to take on the challenge of leading a company beset with such problems. The long-serving ICI director can hardly be experienced in dealing with Stock Exchange investigations, SEC probes, and allegations of treachery in the boardroom, can he? But what he may be able to do is separate these messy issues from the real business of British Biotech, and ascertain what that really amounts to.

Laporte's Inspec share deals to be investigated

By Carl Morktushid

THE Takeover Panel is investigating share deals worth £155 million made by Laporte before yesterday's announcement of a recommended £511 million offer for Inspec, a rival chemicals group.

The share purchases, representing 26 per cent of Inspec's share capital may have violated the Substantial Acquisition Rules (SAR), designed to prevent potential bidders from building up large share stakes in companies by stealth.

The Takeover Panel said

that it is looking into the matter. A spokesman for the panel said: "There were some quite large purchases which normally are not allowed under the SARs."

The purchase of the share stake and the recommendation from the board gives Laporte almost 30 per cent of Inspec and near control of a company which had been touted as a bid target.

The 340p-per-share cash offer is a premium of 39 per cent over the price prior to the announcement of talks and will create several multi-millionaires, including John Holliswood, chairman of Inspec, whose stake is worth almost £34 million. Hundreds of Inspec employees will also share some £20 million from an employee share option scheme with a threshold price of 200p per share. Dr Holliswood will gain a £7 million profit from the scheme.

Laporte's broker, CSFB, raided the market on Tuesday for Inspec shares after the announcement that talks were in progress. Purchases that take a buyer over 15 per cent are normally prohibited unless the deals are struck immediately prior to a recommended offer. The Takeover Panel is likely to be concerned about any time lag between the deals and yesterday morning's confirmation of the bid.

Jim Leng, chief executive of Laporte, said the Inspec deal would be earnings neutral and claimed that the combined group would be the largest niche speciality chemicals company in Europe. Laporte expects some £20 million in costs from integrating Inspec, of which £10 million will be cash costs, mainly redundancies. Laporte yesterday announced a 4 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £67 million for the half year and a 3 per cent increase to the dividend to 9.25p. Inspec's half-year profits fell from £24.6 million to £21.3 million.



John Stewart, chief executive, said the "conversion factor" had petered out by the second quarter of the financial year

Woolwich plans shares buyback

WOOLWICH, the former building society, has shrugged off a decline in net new mortgage business and an outflow of savings to report a 12 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £240.4 million for the first half of 1998.

The bank announced it would use some of its surplus capital to buy back up to £200 million of its own stock over the next six months. This follows the payment of a £100 million special dividend.

Mass mortgage redemptions in the first quarter prompted a sharp fall in net new lending, driving down Woolwich's market share to 1.5 per cent against an outstanding stock of 3.5-4 per cent. Gross

lending was up 8.3 per cent to £1.8 billion. John Stewart, group chief executive, said the "conversion factor" had petered out by the second quarter, with net lending returning to 3.5 per cent in June. The launch of Open Plan, a flexible mortgage product, had helped reverse the decline, he said.

Retail deposits dropped by £235 million. Mr Stewart said the fall could be attributed partly to the conversion factor, but also reflected savers' preference for equity investments, a trend that was likely to continue as global interest rates fall. Profits were propped up by a good performance from sales of life assurance,

unit trusts and fees generated by fixed-rate mortgage business. Non-interest income contributed £113.5 million towards profits, a near 22 per cent increase on 1997.

On industry consolidation, Mr Stewart said Woolwich was not having talks with Alliance & Leicester or any other financial institution. However, he expressed an interest in developing joint ventures with retailers.

Woolwich said it would pay an interim dividend of 3.5p, an increase of 17 per cent, on October 12. Earnings per share rose 13.5 per cent to 10p. The stock closed up 2.5p at 337.5p against a falling market.

AA to close 142 outlets on the high street

By Matthew Barbour

THE AA yesterday announced it is to close its 142 high-street shops in order to refocus the business on its roadside assistance operations.

The closures, due to be completed in 12 months, will result in the loss of 850 jobs. A spokesman said the group was responding to changing shopping patterns.

"As has been seen with banking, the British public now prefers to do business over the telephone or Internet, and we are simply responding to that," said Barry Walsh, AA's public relations manager.

"If something doesn't fit in with our strategy and isn't making a worthwhile contribution, then we have to reassess its role in the business."

Mr Walsh said the group would try to provide new jobs for employees affected by the closures but there could be no guarantees because of the group's new emphasis on technological support for its roadside assistance.

The AA plans to invest £100 million over the next three years to expand this side of the business.

The AA, which was set up more than 90 years ago, employs 12,667 people, including 3,529 patrol personnel.

During the past year the motoring organisation has been under pressure from members to reform its constitution because of the lack of transparency in dealings and accountability on the board.

Although owned by its 9.5 million members, the AA's

15-strong executive committee has complete control over the association's dealings.

At what was described as a "clashing of interests" at May's annual general meeting, Sir Brian Shaw, the chairman, was repeatedly criticised for telling disgruntled members to "vote with their feet". Mr Walsh said the board had been in touch with members before making the decision to close its retail sites.

The AA shops offer a range of services, from insurance to membership to motoring holiday information, and sell maps, books and other motoring accessories.

The RAC, the smaller of the two main motoring organisations, closed its shops five years ago, also blaming low customer usage.

John Maxwell, director general of the AA said: "We are totally committed to improving our core roadside business, which involves improving cost efficiency and adapting our business to meet the changing demands of our members. The association is planning to launch a global positioning system over the next two years, increase its number of purpose-built recovery vehicles and improve the service offered by its telephone helpdesk operation."

The AA said it had completed the sale of its Home Assistance activities to the Aon Risk Services company and that Eagle Star had decided to end its direct underwriting joint venture, AA Underwriting.

Bid talk lifts shares of Booker

By Sarah Cunningham

SHARES in Booker rose sharply on rumours that a foreign bidder might move in on the company.

Speculation centred on Metro, the German owner of the Makro cash-and-carry business, despite a denial from Metro that it intended to bid. Another company named as a possible bidder was Walmart, the American groceries company. Booker declined to comment as its shares rose 12p to 220½p.

Metro bought the privately owned Kreighbaum DIY group in the past few days, recently purchased the Alkant supermarket chain and is thought to be hungry for further acquisitions.

Booker has issued two profit warnings this year and is in the midst of off-loading its non-core operations. Booker had turnover of more than £5 billion last year, much of it generated by its cash-and-carry and food wholesale businesses.

HMV upset by Capital

By Chris Ayres

HMV, the music retailer, said yesterday it would review its sponsorship deals with Capital Radio after the station revealed plans to sell music over the Internet.

Last week Capital Radio, which owns several London stations, disclosed a joint venture with Telstar Entertainment to sell compact discs over the Internet. The service, to be launched in September, will allow shoppers to order music using credit cards.

HMV, which sponsors Capital's *Hits Half Hour* slot and buys large chunks of advertising time on its various stations, said it was "amused" that the radio group had launched its Internet sales without telling it first. HMV, part of the HMV Media Group, which also owns the Waterstone's and Dillons book chains, will launch its own online shopping service later this month.

Brian McLaughlin, managing director of HMV Europe, said: "One minute you think

you're in a long-lasting sponsorship deal and the next you find you're in competition. It is a major disappointment that nobody at Capital told us about this. Until now they have been a first-rate partner."

He said Capital's plans were part of a "disturbing trend" because of this new channel [the Internet] opening up, everybody overnight thinks they can become retailers." Sources at HMV said deals with Capital would be reviewed at a board meeting at the end of the month.

GKN fails to dispel fears

By Adam Jones

SHARES in GKN, the automotive and defence group, fell from 77½p to 74½p yesterday despite an attempt to ease anxiety about its exposure to a UK manufacturing slowdown and the Asian financial crisis.

There had been hope that GKN's interim results might lead a general rally of UK engineering stocks.

Profits before tax and exceptional were up 12 per cent to £228 million. This would have been a 17 per cent rise at con-

stant currencies. Sales were up 7 per cent to £1.8 billion.

CK Chow, chief executive, said the strong pound had not forced the group to transfer production overseas, although a small amount of car parts business has been moved from Germany to Malaysia.

More than half of UK sales came from aerospace and defence projects, which would be less vulnerable to manufacturing slowdown.

South-East Asia only accounted for 0.2 per cent of sales and GKN has taken advantage of the region's financial problems to increase stakes in local companies. However, 90 workers at its armoured car factory in Telford, Shropshire, face an uncertain future. Production of the Piranha vehicle is likely to end early next year and there will be a delay before production of the "battlefield taxi" commences.

Earnings per share before exceptional rose 15 per cent to 22.5p. An interim dividend of 5.75p (5.25p) has been declared.

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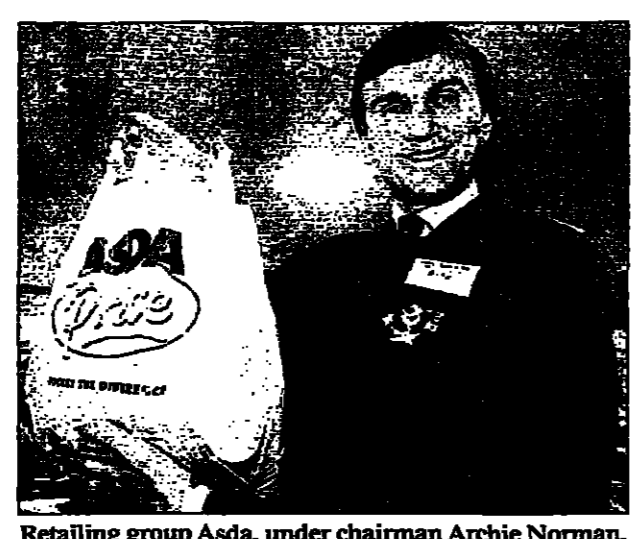
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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK
Stock Market Writer
of the Year

Earnings warning puts pressure on food shops

TIMES are tough out there in the commercial world and the message going out from City brokers suggests trading conditions are set to get worse. Even Britain's shop keepers are not immune. The biggest names in food retailing came under pressure yesterday after one of the US securities houses warned that earnings growth is set to slow over the next couple of years reflecting the problems within the economy.



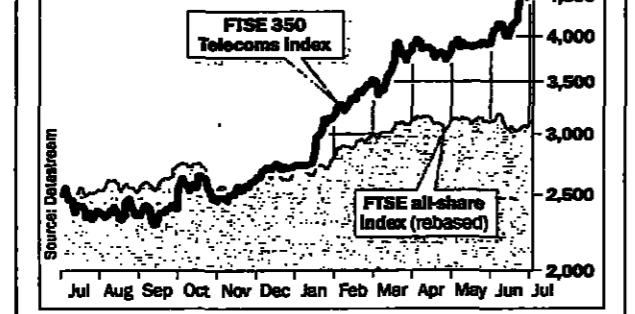
Retailing group Asda, under chairman Archie Norman, has seen Morgan Stanley cut its earnings forecast

zette, the trade magazine, that it is in talks with the third largest Dutch tour operator, Oad Reizen. Thomson has made no secret of its continuing ambitions. It was recently linked with a possible bid for TUI, a German travel firm.

By the close of business total turnover reached 773 million shares. Leading shares worst hit included BAT Industries 19p to 65p, British Land 20p to 49p, Glaxo Wellcome 47p to 118.36 and Prudential Corporation 33p to 81.4p.

Elsewhere in the sector, Paramout Foods climbed 25p to 145p after receiving an offer worth 150p a share from Greencore, the Irish food group. The terms value the group at £28.3 billion.

Elsewhere in the sector, Paramout Foods climbed 25p to 145p after receiving an offer worth 150p a share from Greencore, the Irish food group. The terms value the group at £28.3 billion.



WHAT goes up must come down. And after its spectacular outperformance of the rest of the market already this year, it was the telecoms sector that bore the brunt of much of the market's shakeout.

Shire Pharmaceutical reacted badly to the news of an explosion at the plant of its main supplier with the shares tumbling 30p to 393p.

Premier Direct managed to achieve a small premium in first time trading on AIM. Shares in the display marketing group were placed at 180p by Charles Stanley, the broker, before closing at 182p, a premium of 2p.

Morgan Stanley continues to rate both Asda and Tesco, down 7p to 180p, as "outperform", while remaining "neutral" on Sainsbury and rating Safeway, 2p firmer at 363p, as "underperform".

The warning about future earnings growth from Morgan Stanley came as a timely reminder for the rest of the City as investors suffered another roller-coaster ride. It followed the near 300-point loss the previous evening on Wall Street with one influential fund manager fueling the debate by forecasting a further 1,000 point drop in the Dow Jones industrial average.

At its worst the FTSE 100 Index was down 164.7, but it rallied, encouraged by the opening gains in New York, to reduce the deficit to 103.6 at 5.32.5 by the close. The FTSE 250 Index was also hard hit dropping 123.4 to 5321.5, while

Table of international stock indices: New York (Dow Jones, Nikkei Average), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, etc.

Without the Woolwich. Advertisement for GKN, discussing the company's financial performance and future prospects.

Table of company shares: GKN, Anglo Siberian Oil, Baldwin Ind Svs, Biocmpts Ws, etc.

GKN has been cast in the role of standard bearer for the entire engineering sector recently. This is not entirely appropriate because GKN is a hybrid. It is exposed to the vagaries of the automotive cycle yet at the same time it runs a dynamic support services arm that it built up from scratch.

Westland helicopters is upping production and the tie-up with Agusta leaves it well placed to make the best of further consolidations.

GKN profits - is going to struggle. GKN's car parts business did well in the last six months and European demand has been better than expected, but there are fears that tough competition will exacerbate the effects of an industry-wide downturn.

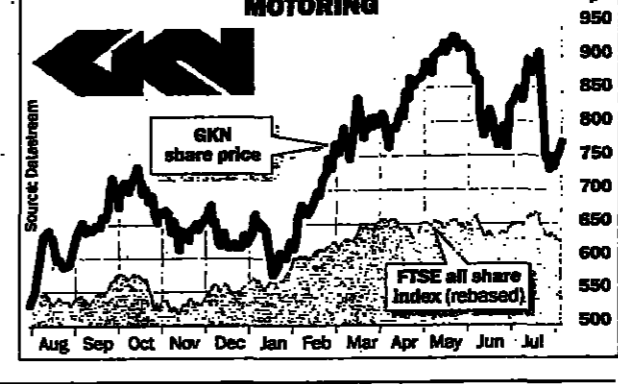


Table of company shares: AdVal Group, Anglo Siberian Oil, Baldwin Ind Svs, Biocmpts Ws, etc.

JIM LENG and John Hollowood seem to be living in different worlds. The former is chief executive of Laporte and has just arranged a £600 million loan in order to buy Inspec, a company chaired by Dr Hollowood.

Laporte's boss reckons the future is beckoning, exciting and well able to provide the growth needed to justify paying some 19 times earnings for Inspec.

Stating one's ambitions is of course different from actually delivering results, and this Cadbury must do if it is to be anything more than defensive play. Mind you, its defensive qualities may be more appreciated in the near, perhaps troubled, future than they were in the bullish recent past.

Table of company shares: Metrolite n/p, Pressac n/p, Torotrak n/p, Wellington n/p, etc.

Table of company shares: RISES: Phytopharm, Booker, TDG, DFS Furniture; FALLS: Shire Pharms, Oxford Molecular, etc.

at marketing but are less keen to tie up capital in manufacturing. So companies like Laporte are being asked to mass produce the molecules.

marks. The uplift came as long-term worries about whether Cadbury was entirely in command of its destiny began to dissolve. The resolution of its bottling capacity conundrums, post the Coca Cola/Schweppes Beverages joint venture, has bolstered feelings towards the firm, and the newish top management's focus on delivering shareholder value has done sentiment no end of good, too.

Table of commodity prices: COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, etc.

Table of commodity prices: CRUDE OILS, GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES, LIFFE POTATO, RUBBER, LIFFE BIFFEX, etc.

Table of commodity prices: LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES, Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, etc.

Table of commodity prices: MONEY RATES, Base Rates, Discount Market Loans, etc.

Table of commodity prices: MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION, Average market prices, etc.

Table of commodity prices: LIFE OPTIONS, 1998-1999, 2000-2001, etc.

Table of commodity prices: EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS, Gold/precious metals, Sterling spot and forwards, etc.

Table of commodity prices: RISK MANAGEMENT, Currency, etc.

Large advertisement for a company, featuring a portrait of a man and the text 'The breed make' and 'helping ha'.

Japan must say no to Big Brother

Twelve months ago, Wall Street suffered palpitations in August in apparent response to the crash in Asian asset prices, which had by then reached Hong Kong. The financial establishment soon soothed it all away. Comeuppance for a few "tigers" would scarcely scratch the West. The great bull market rolled on.

As the months passed it became clear that the East would cut growth in the West. Rather than overplaying the peripheral collapse, we had underestimated the impact of renewed depression in Japan, its epicentre.

This week's alarm on Wall Street was swiftly blamed on worry over Japan, not with much conviction but because even the dumbest trader is now aware of it. Emergency bills are winging their way to parliament in Tokyo to cut taxes by £30 billion and to cope with banks' mind-boggling bad debts.

Opinion polls suggest, however, that only a quarter of Japanese people have much faith in their new Government to get the economy moving again. The elevation of Kei-

zo Obuchi to the premiership did not impress them.

The trouble with Mr Obuchi, as voters noticed, is that he is a diplomat. He is predisposed to adopt measures acceptable to the United States and Europe. Let's be clear, the US ambassador, the US Treasury Secretary and even the US Defence Secretary are reminding the Obuchi cabinet that Big Brother is watching them.

Such measures will not succeed. The West has already messed up the Asian financial collapse. We urged fiscal caution on Japan until it complied and promptly killed its nascent recovery. The West's new recipe for Japan blends easy money, tax cuts, higher spending, deregulation, zoning sheltered jobs, foreclosing on debt-ridden firms, shutting troubled banks and encouraging hostile takeovers.

Thanks, but no thanks. Even in

the West such a formula would score up new instabilities for the future. In Japan, where small firms matter more and ordinary people have deposit savings, it would undermine confidence yet more. That is not exactly what you want when household spending dropped by 3.1 per cent in the first half of 1998.

Japan does not have a UK-style welfare state. So record unemployment of 4.3 per cent is already a powerful incentive to save more money while you have it. Any reforms that drive the weak to the wall and throw people out of work would strengthen that incentive. Interest rates are as near zero as you can get and there is not much money in shares or property, so prudent folk need to save even more. Tax cuts would offer a last chance to top up those savings.

So far, long years of financial depression appear to have damaged



Japanese society less than shorter setbacks at home. Restaurants, pricey bars, clothing stores and theme parks are having a terrible time, but fewer people appear to have been thrown out of their homes or plunged into destitution than in Britain. Any policy that costs jobs should be avoided at all costs. Japan's economic plight needs

Japanese solutions. That is as well. At 78, Kiichi Miyazawa, the new Finance Minister, is hardly likely to lead revolutionary new deal thinking. But the traditional levers Mr Miyazawa used in the old days to control Japan Inc have already been swept away by reforms imposed by its agreement to move to a more open market system.

He needs to set about re-establishing influence, but in a more transparent, acceptable form. This may be the vague idea behind the proposed "strategic economic council", which is intended to establish a consensus with the Government.

The economy certainly needs to deliver world-beating new products, including perhaps the non-polluting car. A little old-fashioned collusion would not go amiss. If Japan is to get moving again, it will need export-led growth of the kind the US and the EU have ruled un-

acceptable. How refreshing, therefore, to hear Mr Miyazawa say that he was reluctant to support the yen on the foreign exchanges except in extremis — even though he was forced to react. The last thing Japan needs is to waste more hidden public spending to buttress a currency that deserves to be weak as long as you cannot earn a return on it.

The better way to regain economic influence would be via direct formal ownership. It would also be more acceptable to the country's fed-up voters. Forget "moral hazard", the absurd doctrine that bailing out lenders encourages slack practices; bankers are driven to lose money whatever the lessons of history. But taxpayers should get something for their money.

Mr Miyazawa could help to re-capitalise banks better by supplying new equity capital rather than

by more orthodox methods of injecting liquidity. More institutions could then afford to convert debt into equity holdings, including land, rather than foreclosing and auctioning collateral, as planned. Banks would become more like their German competitors and the Government could exercise influence through taxpayers' stakes in the banks.

Rather than supplying a temporary "lifeline" funded by borrowing, Mr Miyazawa should print new bank capital. And if that encouraged fears of inflation, all the better. Japan has disproved the notion that deflation can be good for you. Greater stability plus a modest touch of inflation should at last boost consumer spending.

Somewhere in this process, Mr Miyazawa should also push up interest rates, as one of Mr Obuchi's rivals suggested. That will help beleaguered older consumers far more than it will hurt banks. Only then should the yen recover.

Such a plan would be greeted with horror in Washington, the only sure sign that it might work.

The breed of investors who make the markets move

Andrew Butcher and Alasdair Murray on the latest recruit to an exclusive club of gurus

Ralph Acampora, the chief technical analyst at Prudential Securities, could barely disguise his pride on Tuesday night. He was the man whose opinions were being credited with knocking 300 points off Wall Street's Dow Jones industrial average. Long known as a market bull, he had announced to his clients and the media that he had turned bearish. Mr Acampora dumped his previous predictions of a Dow at 10,000 points later this year and, instead, predicted a fall to about 7,500.

The market's reaction confirmed Mr Acampora as one of a select group of individuals branded "market movers". His claim that it was the make-up of the market and not the comments of an individual that moved stocks smacked of false modesty. When asked about being held responsible for the fall, Mr Acampora said: "You'd hate to think that one person could do this, but I think the popularity of business shows and all the media attention that it gets, I guess it becomes a bit of a catalyst."

US markets have become particularly sensitive to the views of a few markets "gurus". America has a uniquely highly developed private investor sector and these investors tend to hang on the words of leading experts. When a guru such as Mr Acampora pronounces, there is always a rush of private activity.

On the face of it this is what exactly happened on Monday. There was little new hard information in the market — worries about Asian and corporate earnings have been about for more than a year. After Mr Acampora's comments triggered the initial sell-off, the downturn quickly developed a life of its own. Computer trade programs, designed to sell shares or index options automatically when the price reaches a certain level,



Pains and gains: investors have looked to, clockwise from top left, Barton Biggs, Elaine Garzarelli, Jeff Vinik and Warren Buffett

Monday's 300-point fall on the Dow looks dramatic — it was the third-largest points fall in history — but in real terms it pales into insignificance against a real market collapse. The 3.4 percentage loss is around half of the 7.2 per cent slide recorded last October. The Dow's worst one-day performance remains Black Monday — October 17, 1987 — when it lost 22.6 per cent. Since the Dow's slide began towards the end of July, the market

has lost 900 points — around 10 per cent. But Wall Street is still 7 per cent up this calendar year and on a broader view a massive 4,650 points — or 120 per cent — higher than it was on January 1 1995. Bad days on Wall Street take their toll of Lon-

don, with the FTSE 100 tending to suffer more between the market's peaks and troughs. The October 1987 crash knocked some 21 per cent off the broader S&P 500 index, while the FTSE 100 lost 32 per cent of its value. In February 1994, the S&P's 8 per cent fall compared with a 14.5 per cent FTSE slide. London has so far incurred fewer losses this time around, falling 5.2 per cent in the last two weeks, against 7 per cent for S&P.

since 1991, long before most people were predicting a bull run.

Even rumours that Ms Cohen has changed her view on stocks have moved the markets in the past. In November 1996 Ms Cohen was dragged out of a meeting after a rumour swept the market that she had turned bearish. Within minutes of Ms Cohen reiterating her bullish views, the market rose.

Having a high-profile and the ability to move markets does not necessarily mean that an analyst's views are any more accurate than the next person's.

Elaine Garzarelli made her name on Wall Street by predicting the crash of October 1987. She was swamped with offers from Wall Street firms and became a darling of stock pickers. Ms Garzarelli has retained her ability to move markets, but some say her influence exists for all the wrong reasons. Her predictions in recent years have been so bad that in January she went on television to deny that she had become a "contrary indicator" amid jokes that whatever she said, the market did the opposite.

Barton Biggs, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter's chief global strategist, has been a well-known pessimist along with Ms Garzarelli for some time. Only last week Mr Biggs was predicting "a serious cyclical bear market in the US which could see the market go down 20 to 30 per cent". Mr Biggs's comments were not met with the same reaction that they might once have prompted because he has often been negative in recent years.

Most regular analysts are, of course, still steering a middle course. The Dow is expected to lose some more ground, with a standard year-end target of about 8,000. This constitutes a mild correction but hardly takes the Dow into the realms of a true bear market where losses total 20 per cent or more.

In London dealers confident that the market has already discounted much of the bad news. Philip Wolstencroft, equities strategist at Merrill Lynch, expects only a small correction to about 6,300 by the year end. He said: "The Dow is at the top of its valuation range while the UK is towards the bottom. The FTSE can't ignore what is happening on Wall Street, but I am still fairly bullish."

SOI will add spice to chips on the move

THE breakthrough that IBM, the computer group, said it had made this week in the production of microchips was met with indifference by many in the business world.

It seems that everyone now expects microchips to double in power every 18 months, as predicted by Gordon Moore, the founder of IBM's rival, Intel. Few people understand what impact that will have on their lives.



on a third of the power — are designed to tackle this problem. The chips will allow powerful voice-recognition software, increasing the security of transactions made online.

But for business, the impact will be great. Chips created using IBM's "silicon-on-insulator" technology — known as SOI — will be able to boost the performance of one of the most revered yet limited tools in the corporate world: the mobile phone.

Fison, the British palmtop computer manufacturer, recently saw its stock market value jump 50 per cent after it revealed a deal with Ericsson, Nokia and Motorola, to produce "next generation" phones. Mobile phones will be transformed into all-round communications devices.

Although GSM, the standard technology on which mobile phones are based, is capable of carrying data, it can do so only at about a sixth of the speed of a conventional telephone line. Yet the benefits to any business of having access to information on the move could be enormous.

The development of mobile computing devices capable of these functions has been hindered in part by the lack of small, energy-efficient power for mobile computing devices.

IBM's SOI chips — which can run at up to twice the speed of home PCs and run

□ A NEW Walkman-style music player is threatening to revolutionise the music industry. The MPMan, manufactured by the Korean company Saehan, stores music digitally and does not need compact discs or cassettes. The device is designed to download music directly from the Internet, and is already on sale online for about \$299 (£187) in the UK. The music industry is concerned that the MPMan will be used for downloading pirated music.

□ COMPANIES that find themselves swamped with junk e-mails, known as "spam" in the computer industry, will this week be offered software to combat the problem. Fabrik Communications UK, the Internet company, has produced a program which discards unsolicited e-mail before it even touches a company's network. Some 10 billion pieces of junk e-mail clog up networks each year.

CHRIS AYRES

Helping hand

I UNDERSTAND that the driving force behind the appointment of Brian Williamson, our new man at Life, was none other than the Bank of England. The Bank became concerned at the endless dithering at the futures exchange over who would take over from Jack Wigglesworth, the chairman, and finally stepped in with their own man.

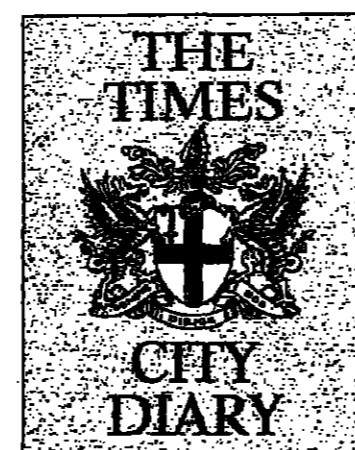
Williamson is, of course, impeccably connected, chairman of Gerrard Group, director of the Financial Serv-

ices Authority and an all-round City big-wig.

This did for the chances of the favourite inside Life, Mike Metcalfe, who works for EDS&F Man and was felt to be a bit too close to the old regime. Unlike Williamson, chairman for three years in the 1980s and therefore the old, old regime, I suppose, Metcalfe's resignation from the Life board last month went largely unnoticed and he is now in Rotterdam.

Still, I have some good news for Life for a change. Eurex, the merged German and Swiss futures exchanges and London's bitter rival, has shelved the idea of trading in UK gilt futures and left the field open to Life. Apparently the French have tried and made a pig's ear of it, and the Germans and the Swiss do not want to risk it.

MORE from the annals of Tiny Rowland. He and my informant were sitting together in the beautiful State House at Entebbe, Uganda, surrounded by government flunkies, waiting to see President Museveni. Hours passed. The chairman of Loro (East Africa), who was getting nervous because the boss was being kept waiting, asked him, if he thought they would get lunch. Long pause. Tiny looked around. "We should at least get a sandwich. We



gave them £6 million for their uniforms."

And finally THE Queens Moat Houses case in the High Court finally closed this week after 137 days in court spread over almost ten months. I am informed that this makes it the second-longest civil action in British legal history, after the McDonald's libel case. In case you're quite understandably forgotten what it was all about, John Bairdson, the former QMH chairman, and three other ex-directors are suing for wrongful dismissal, arguing that its near collapse in 1993 was caused by the current management. QMH counters that the four men created artificial profits through a series of allegedly sham transactions.

Earlier this year QMH said its legal bill had passed £4.6 million, but industry sources believe it could have gone past £5 million, and it's not over yet. The judge is unlikely to make a judgment this side of Christmas, and then there are the possible appeals.

A phlegmatic — or merely shell-shocked? — Bairdson tells me: "It's been a very interesting experience."

FURTHER proof, if it were needed, that the age of satire is stone dead. A couple of years ago Janetta Hamilton-Brown, a former professional dancer, set up something called Only Lunch. This was a dating service for professionals so busy and so stressed out that they not only lacked the time to meet anyone, they even lacked the time to ring the restaurant to book lunch. (Does this sound like anyone you know?) The agency, therefore, provides lunch partner and lunch table. Hamilton-Brown has now gone one further, catering for the professional so hyper-busy, so deal-driven, that he or she cannot even make lunch. You sign on, and a collection of potential dates is lined up to call you. Obviously you are far too busy for a phone call. So they all leave little messages on your voice mail.

Meal appeal I HEAR the City is to have its own version of the Atlantic Bar & Grill, the ultra-trendy restaurant in Piccadilly. This is owned by Oliver Peyton,

the Irish-born entrepreneur, and I am told Madonna shot her new video there! This apparently makes it terribly cool.

The City property has just been acquired from Milner Estates, the other vehicle of John Riblat of British Land. It is about the best site for a restaurant in the Square Mile, by my reckoning — a Gothic pile on Lombury, opposite the Bank of England and nice and handy for Cazenoves, just round the corner in Tokenhouse Yard. Peyton has toyed with the idea of floating his restaurant empire, so his new venture should bring him lots of new friends willing to help.

MARTIN WALLER



An appearance by Madonna gave a boost to Oliver Peyton's restaurant

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TIM JACKSON

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"Wait! The market's picked up again!"

Shire plunges after factory explosion

BY GEORGE SIVELL

SHARES in Shire Pharmaceuticals plunged from 479p to 393p after the group said that its results will be hit by the loss of manufacturing after an explosion at its Arenol factory in Sommerville, New Jersey.

The company said Arenol is the sole supplier of the active ingredients used in Adderall and DextroStat, Shire's products for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. In the six months to the end of June 1998, Adderall and DextroStat accounted for 63 per cent of Shire's revenue.

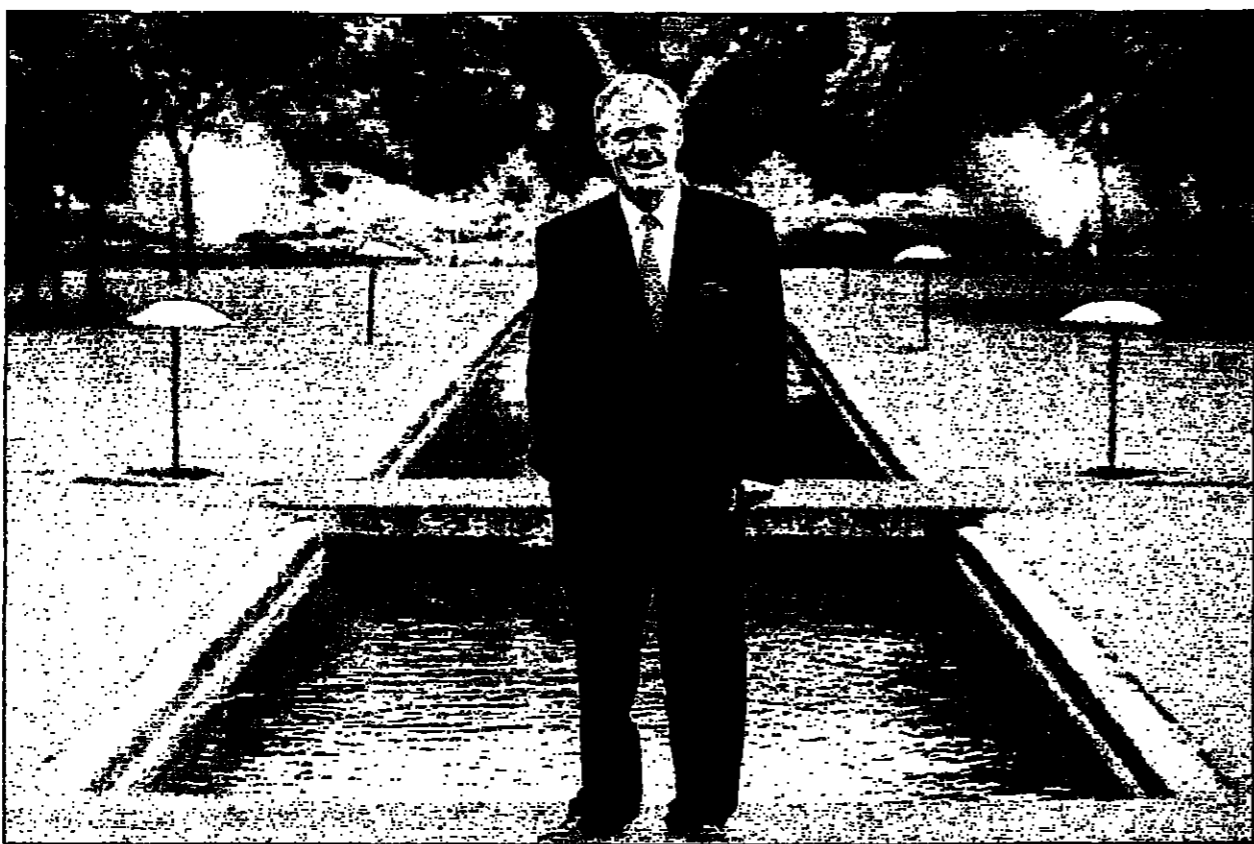
Shire said it is in discussions with the Food and Drug Administration as it seeks to restart manufacturing at Arenol or transfer permits, quotas and agreements for the manufacture of Adderall and DextroStat active ingredients to an alternative factory as quickly as possible to minimise the period when the supply of products is unavailable, adversely affecting patients.

Shire said it has started discussions with Arenol and other third-party manufacturers.

Taking into account finished goods at wholesalers and retail pharmacies in America, available raw materials, work in progress and finished goods, there will be enough supplies to meet the needs of existing patients for the next 3-4 months, based on current demand.

It is unlikely that Shire will be able to re-establish a source of active ingredients before current stocks are finished.

This will have an adverse effect on Shire's financial results, the seriousness of which will depend on the period when stocks are not available and the measures taken by Shire to mitigate the effects of this incident, said the company. Shire said it will continue its close relationship with patient groups to ensure they receive up-to-date information.



Tom Mulcahy, chief executive of AIB, is confident the group will grow its business base in the medium term

Allied Irish unveils 66% leap in profits

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ALLIED IRISH BANKS pleasantly surprised the markets yesterday by unveiling a 66 per cent increase in first-half pre-tax profits to Ir£401 million (£346 million).

The results largely reflected the strength of the Irish economy and the first-time inclusion of figures from Dauphin, a US banking operation acquired last year. Underlying growth in the Irish operation was good, with profits from the branch network rising 37 per cent and earnings from Ark Life, its bancassurance arm, jumping 51 per cent.

Group operating income leapt 40 per cent to Ir£1.03 billion, although this was partially offset by a 25 per cent increase in operating expenses to Ir£576 million.

Provisions for bad and doubtful debts rose 23 per cent to Ir£44.9 million, but this represented just 0.4 per cent of total lending compared to 0.5 per cent last year.

Tom Mulcahy, group chief executive, said he was optimistic about the economic outlook. GDP in the Republic of Ireland grew by 9.8 per cent last year and is forecast to exceed 10 per cent this year.

"Our participation in supporting economic growth in all our markets makes us confident that we will substantially grow our business base into the medium term," Mr Mulcahy said.

Looking forward, AIB said its growth was more likely to be organic rather than by acquisition, although it would continue to explore any takeover opportunities as they arose. "One shouldn't say no too easily," said Gary Kennedy, group financial director.

Mr Kennedy said expansion in Central Europe was more probable than at home. In Poland, where AIB has a 60 per cent share in the Wielkopolski Kredytowy Bank (WKB), the bank said its objective was to expand WKB's branch reach in a country which had growth and investment potential.

Conversely, Mr Kennedy said AIB could be the target of a takeover, adding it would be foolish not to think the bank was on somebody's list of possibilities. He said AIB could be seen as the vehicle for a North American group to gain access to the European Union market or by a continental bank.

AIB declared an interim dividend of Ir8p, an increase of 19 per cent, payable on September 25. Earnings per share for the half-year amounted to Ir30.6p, a rise of 37 per cent.

Dixon shares speed ahead

BY FRASER NELSON

DIXON MOTORS, the car dealership, yesterday confirmed that the August demand for new cars has failed to show any marked improvement on last year — but said demand for motorcycles is booming.

Shares of the company picked up slightly from their two-year low as it agreed terms to buy another Ford dealership from Quicks Group for £119,000. It now has three Ford dealerships, and expects to sell 3,500 new cars and 2,700 used cars each year.

Gary Cuthbertson, finance director, said that sales of the new S-Reg cars are in line with market expectations — reasonably strong, but showing no great signs of picking up in 1997.

Sales of motorcycles, which make up 15 per cent of the business, rose by 40 per cent on a like-for-like basis and 70 per cent when including its recent acquisitions.

Mr Cuthbertson said demand was up because motorcycles have been making a fashion comeback and been given local authority backing in the form of free parking and priority traffic lanes.

The Ford acquisition comes four weeks after it paid £844,000 for the Tate's Ford dealership in Manchester.

The company hopes to keep winning Ford territories and pick up some spots from the recent difficulties in the market. It believes Ford will shut down its smaller dealerships in an attempt to reduce its number of UK territories from 400 to 120.

Dixon is due to return its half-year results next month, and City analysts expect it will emerge as one of the more successful players in its sector. Its shares, changing hands for 300p a few months ago, added 4p to 198p yesterday.

Whitbread calls time on 453 pubs

WHITBREAD, the brewing and leisure group, has sold a package of 253 leased pubs for £42.5 million to Avebury Taverns, a fledgling pub company backed by Daiwa Europe, the Japanese-owned investment bank.

Stewart Miller, managing director of Whitbread Pub Partnerships, refused suggestions that the sale signalled an eventual exit from tenanted pubs, saying that the group planned to invest £14 million this year in its 1,700-strong estate.

"The sale is part of a continuing review of our estate which results in investing in some parts of the business and divesting in others which are not part of our long-term strategy," he said. "We remain committed to leased pub retailing."

The deal, at just above book value, takes Avebury's estate to more than 720 pubs. It was set up last year following the purchase of 147 pubs from Wolverhampton & Dudley, snapping up a further 222 houses from Bass in January for about £40 million.

A spokesman for Avebury said that Daiwa's structured finance arm planned to securitise the company's cashflow, adding: "We remain fairly acquisitive."

Oxford hit by delay

SHARES in Oxford Molecular fell from 182½ to 154p after the group revealed that there had been a delay to significant information technology orders. The company said: "The directors are confident that information technology sales in the second half of the year will reflect the inclusion of orders from the first six months and the group sales for the year will show significant progress." The group suffered increased losses of £2.2 million for the six months to end June against £677,000 in the previous first half. Revenues rose 25 per cent to £7.74 million. Losses per share stretched from 1.1p to 3.1p.

Country Gardens up 22%

COUNTRY GARDENS raised pre-tax profits by 22 per cent to £4.1 million on sales up 14 per cent to £31.6 million. Like-for-like sales rose 9.6 per cent, which the company described as disappointing but put down to poor weather conditions. Earnings per share fell from 13.7p to 10.4p after a rise in the tax charge. The shares fell 4½p to 175p. On current trading, Country Gardens said: "Turnover and like-for-like sales for July are ahead of last year. It continues to be our objective to expand our garden centre business both by internal growth and by acquisitions in the southeast of England."

Diagonal doubles

DIAGONAL, the information technology group, more than doubled pre-tax profits to £3.1 million in the six months to May 31 on sales up 79 per cent to £31.9 million. Earnings rose 96 per cent to 10.6p, out of which the half-year dividend rises 75 per cent to 1.4p. The comparisons exclude flotation costs clocked up in 1997. The shares rose from £12.35 to £12.80. Mark Samuels, chairman, said: "The first half-year has seen the group make excellent progress over a broad front. Our forward order book is growing strongly and confirmed sales for next year are at record levels."

Electronics ahead

SHARES in Electronics Boutique rose by 1p to 77½p after the retail company told the market it had traded well ahead of the same period of 1997 and in line with current expectations. The company said that the demand for video-game consoles remained strong and that expanded installed hardware was being reflected in strong software sales across all formats. Sales were helped by the release of World Cup 98 from Electronic Arts. The company said the new release schedule for the second half of the year was strong and the company was on track to add another 20 outlets to its chain of 158.

Fans in line for McCann's Celtic stake

FERGUS McCANN, who is to stand down as chairman of Celtic in the spring and sell his 51 per cent stake in the group, has vowed to allow existing shareholders and the Glasgow football team's 52,500 season ticket holders a chance of buying at least part of his holding (Jason Nisbet writes).

In his four years at the club, Mr McCann has seen the value of his investment rise from £8 million to more than

£30 million. Having successfully floated the company on AIM, he intends to move it to the main market and is proposing a 100-for-1 share split to bring down the share price, which yesterday stood at £215.

Mr McCann vowed to allow supporters to buy shares after being accused of selling out to "faceless City institutions".

Celtic has appointed headhunters to

find a new chairman and a new managing director to replace Mr Mason, who yesterday attempted to silence his critics at the club by pointing to his achievements — including a new 60,000-seat stadium and Celtic's success in winning the Scottish Premier Division last season.

In the financial year to June 30, Celtic's pre-tax profits rose from £5.15 million to £7.10 million. However, this

was owing to a profit in player trading thanks to accounting policies which write off the entire value of players before they are sold.

Operating profits fell because of a 57 per cent increase in the club's wage bill. Earnings per share rose from £10.83 to £14.90 and the dividend is unchanged at £5.33. Mr McCann said the main focus now was to increase the club's income from merchandising.

Carving out a niche is key

To survive in today's competitive market, firms need to offer a unique service, says Francis Quinlan

Do you really want to stand out? Many mid-tier and smaller firms are seen as good generalists, but are famous for nothing. Yet distinctiveness can be and must be sought. How else, in a crowded market, are you to come to mind when it matters? Trying to offer clients still more resource yet better personal service isn't the paradox to address because everyone is in the same trap. Unfortunately choosing any specific way forward may seem to present unpalatable trade-offs for the partnership.

Two factors largely decide a firm's competitive positioning. First, there is strength in depth in lead services. This is not the same thing as size per se, but is the assurance that buyers want that the firm has the expertise and resource to handle the work. Most firms meet this criterion for bog-standard audit and tax-compliance work, but increasingly fail it as the work becomes higher level. The second factor is perceived ability to create value. Buyers have grown sensitive to the value of professional service outside what is vital to their business. Where there is need for a critical piece of due diligence,

a tricky financing package or complex trust work, they gravitate towards advisers whom they see as able to add real value. Or their choice is ruled by price.

Within any market, buyers will tend to choose between firms on these criteria. Distinctive positioning helps them to develop a clear view about which firms fit. Ineffective positioning merely rules a firm out of contention.

There is fortunately a logical way forward. It starts with the firm's prime clients and with the range of services it offers — but particularly those that clients most value. This suggests three types of strategy that a firm might pursue to achieve clear positioning.

First, a service-driven strategy — focusing on a limited range of services, and seeking leadership in them across a wide market. Examples might be in forensic accounting, executive compensation schemes or specialist corporate finance.

Secondly, a client or sector-driven approach — concentrating on a few market sectors and becoming leading providers across a wide range of services. The sectors might be regional, or industry-specific,



Francis Quinlan says a distinctive quality must be sought

such as tourism, or linked to a particular market, such as Lloyd's owner-managed business is often described as a market sector. Ideally, the segment offers some barrier to entry, once you are in it.

Thirdly, even more specific would be a sector/service specialist, focusing on a few market sectors but delivering particular services critical to those sectors, such as personal financial planning for globetrotting entertainers.

These will seem stark or even unpalatable, choices to most broad-based firms. But

Francis Quinlan is a consultant with Hodgart Temporal, a strategic management consultancy.

there are various ways of perming these core strategies to achieve synergy in service areas and market sectors, and a leadership profile for the firm.

A few mid-tier firms are well down this road. BDO Stoy Hayward, for instance, displays a sector-driven approach aimed at entrepreneurial public and private companies. It offers a wide service range, but its characteristic style seems pacey, energetic and inventive.

Smith & Williamson's strength is its service capability for clients as individuals, who have the benefit of a captive investment service company and even a private bank. Its marketing style suggests discretion and confidentiality.

What is noticeable about both firms is that they have a fix on both the value issue and on strength in depth in selected fields. They have carved out clear positions by identifying a core client base and an appropriate service range. The market increasingly appears to recognise them as having character and personality.

Firms such as these have a platform for recruiting people with professional zeal for specific areas of work. Their management has a clear vision.

Francis Quinlan is a consultant with Hodgart Temporal, a strategic management consultancy.

Profession that can't figure out a merger

ACCOUNTANTS are always bad with numbers. The outside world assumes that if you give an accountant a set of figures he will come up with some indisputable conclusion or other. As the analysis of the current voting figures in the profession's first hostile takeover bid shows, this is not so. To an outsider the conclusions may seem inescapable. The insiders are arguing differently.

Equally, to an outsider the fact that three of the six British accounting bodies are squabbling again over the idea of merging may seem inconsequential. To the 120,000 accountants involved it is a question of quality of earnings and livelihood.

The efforts by the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants (ACCA) in sending voting forms on a grand merger plan to members of the management accounting body

(CIMA) and the public sector accounting body (CIPFA), without first telling either body's leaders, has created the biggest row for years.

For some time all the accountancy bodies had, by and large, come to live in harmony. That has now been abruptly destroyed. Mistrust has become the rule again, and no wonder.

But the worry now is that none of it may have been worth it to anybody. There was always a chance that the members of the three accountancy bodies concerned might be so weary of cyclical efforts at mergers that by now they would vote for anything and vote enthusiastically to have the whole issue sorted out for good.

That does not seem to have happened. Three weeks after the event the certified accountants have 17,000 voting cards back from the 120,000 members. Almost 10,000 of those were from certified accountants and of those some 76 per cent were in favour. But only 6,097 votes have been received from CIMA members, with some 65 per cent in favour, and only 1,544 votes from CIPFA members, but with 84 per cent in favour.

The word from the ACCA high command is that the percentages have been "remarkably consistent" over the three weeks so far. And they explain away the relative paucity of votes from the other two bodies by pointing to the relative size of the three bodies' memberships. ACCA has 60,000 members, CIMA has 47,000 and CIPFA has 13,000.

On all these figures the trend would seem

to point, as you might expect, to ACCA members being reasonably enthusiastic while the others, given the small number of them voting, are less interested.

The other point is that these votes are on a proposal that is based on reaching an agreement on a broad principle and that involves no detail at all. In the past, whenever merger efforts have been made it has been relatively easy to achieve a majority vote on the broad idea of a merger. The votes have always switched to the other direction when the real implications, which always lie in the detail, have been put to members.

So the voting figures that the ACCA has released are unremarkable. The truly astonishing figures are those that have been released by CIMA, the management accounting body. Outraged by the fact that the ACCA

had gone behind its back and direct to its members with the proposals, CIMA held fire until it had debated the issue in its council.

Unsurprisingly, the CIMA council decided that the ACCA proposals were "seriously flawed". They then sent out letters to all members asking them to state a "yes" or a "no" to a simple question.

That question was: "Are you satisfied that the ACCA approach is in your best long-term interests?" The response has been overwhelming. In the first six days 11,000 replies came back with 85 per cent of them voting "no".

So now we are in a position where support for the ACCA plan looks lukewarm, while opposition from CIMA members

looks determined. CIPFA plans to poll its members in September, once the holiday season is out of the way. The end result is likely to be people arguing from entrenched positions over which set of figures means what.

Instead, they should focus, once the results are all in, on the future. The ACCA should decide at the end of their ten-week voting period that the proposals should be junked. They should then undertake talks with the other bodies and identify sticking points. These should then be negotiated. The end result may be failure. Or it may be a constructive rationalisation. The important point is to get to grips with the issues and resolve them. Trying to railroad members only breeds mistrust later on. And simply arguing over the figures will get the accountancy profession nowhere.



ROBERT BRUCE

Ne'er the twain shall meet

AS THE VARIOUS accountancy bodies involved in the hostile takeover planned by the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants continue their squabble they would do well to read a piece of research just produced by the Scots ICA. This relates to previous merger efforts that took place from 1933 to 1957.

The very existence of such research would suggest that attempts to merge the profession together have a long history of

not succeeding. The key passage which current participants should heed says simply that: "The documentary sources testify to the enormous resources expended in the quest to achieve an apparently futile aim." But then life would be so much fun if people learnt the lessons of history.

Party rates

THERE HAVE been more rumblings following the unprecedented cancellation of

this week's meeting of the English ICA council owing to "insufficient business". Council members from out of London have lost a considerable perk as a result.

Normally council members receive an allowance of £50 for dinner and £100 for an hotel if they argue that they have to stay overnight ahead of the meeting.

Rumour has it that there has been much grumbling of late about some council members

with spouses in tow "partying on the rates". The feisty Dame Sheila Masters, who will be next year's President, has been heard berating members from the shires who refuse to get an early train that she gets up just as early every day of her life and sees no reason why they shouldn't.

The response that "I never knew there was a 6.30 in the morning as well as in the evening" is thought to have not gone down too well.

ROBERT BRUCE

Shares rally towards close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
145.00	144.00	Asahi Breweries	144.50	+0.35	18.5
115.00	114.00	Beck & Co	114.50	+0.50	15.2
105.00	104.00	Carlsberg	104.50	+0.50	14.8
125.00	124.00	Heineken	124.50	+0.50	16.1
135.00	134.00	Kaiser Brewery	134.50	+0.50	17.3
145.00	144.00	Miller Brewing	144.50	+0.50	18.5
155.00	154.00	Orkla ASA	154.50	+0.50	19.7
165.00	164.00	Royal Unibrew	164.50	+0.50	20.9
175.00	174.00	Tate & Lyle	174.50	+0.50	22.1
185.00	184.00	Wassermann	184.50	+0.50	23.3
195.00	194.00	Ykkoyama	194.50	+0.50	24.5
205.00	204.00	Zyngex	204.50	+0.50	25.7
215.00	214.00	Asahi Breweries	214.50	+0.50	26.9
225.00	224.00	Beck & Co	224.50	+0.50	28.1
235.00	234.00	Carlsberg	234.50	+0.50	29.3
245.00	244.00	Heineken	244.50	+0.50	30.5
255.00	254.00	Kaiser Brewery	254.50	+0.50	31.7
265.00	264.00	Miller Brewing	264.50	+0.50	32.9
275.00	274.00	Orkla ASA	274.50	+0.50	34.1
285.00	284.00	Royal Unibrew	284.50	+0.50	35.3
295.00	294.00	Tate & Lyle	294.50	+0.50	36.5
305.00	304.00	Wassermann	304.50	+0.50	37.7
315.00	314.00	Ykkoyama	314.50	+0.50	38.9
325.00	324.00	Zyngex	324.50	+0.50	40.1
335.00	334.00	Asahi Breweries	334.50	+0.50	41.3
345.00	344.00	Beck & Co	344.50	+0.50	42.5
355.00	354.00	Carlsberg	354.50	+0.50	43.7
365.00	364.00	Heineken	364.50	+0.50	44.9
375.00	374.00	Kaiser Brewery	374.50	+0.50	46.1
385.00	384.00	Miller Brewing	384.50	+0.50	47.3
395.00	394.00	Orkla ASA	394.50	+0.50	48.5
405.00	404.00	Royal Unibrew	404.50	+0.50	49.7
415.00	414.00	Tate & Lyle	414.50	+0.50	50.9
425.00	424.00	Wassermann	424.50	+0.50	52.1
435.00	434.00	Ykkoyama	434.50	+0.50	53.3
445.00	444.00	Zyngex	444.50	+0.50	54.5
455.00	454.00	Asahi Breweries	454.50	+0.50	55.7
465.00	464.00	Beck & Co	464.50	+0.50	56.9
475.00	474.00	Carlsberg	474.50	+0.50	58.1
485.00	484.00	Heineken	484.50	+0.50	59.3
495.00	494.00	Kaiser Brewery	494.50	+0.50	60.5
505.00	504.00	Miller Brewing	504.50	+0.50	61.7
515.00	514.00	Orkla ASA	514.50	+0.50	62.9
525.00	524.00	Royal Unibrew	524.50	+0.50	64.1
535.00	534.00	Tate & Lyle	534.50	+0.50	65.3
545.00	544.00	Wassermann	544.50	+0.50	66.5
555.00	554.00	Ykkoyama	554.50	+0.50	67.7
565.00	564.00	Zyngex	564.50	+0.50	68.9
575.00	574.00	Asahi Breweries	574.50	+0.50	70.1
585.00	584.00	Beck & Co	584.50	+0.50	71.3
595.00	594.00	Carlsberg	594.50	+0.50	72.5
605.00	604.00	Heineken	604.50	+0.50	73.7
615.00	614.00	Kaiser Brewery	614.50	+0.50	74.9
625.00	624.00	Miller Brewing	624.50	+0.50	76.1
635.00	634.00	Orkla ASA	634.50	+0.50	77.3
645.00	644.00	Royal Unibrew	644.50	+0.50	78.5
655.00	654.00	Tate & Lyle	654.50	+0.50	79.7
665.00	664.00	Wassermann	664.50	+0.50	80.9
675.00	674.00	Ykkoyama	674.50	+0.50	82.1
685.00	684.00	Zyngex	684.50	+0.50	83.3
695.00	694.00	Asahi Breweries	694.50	+0.50	84.5
705.00	704.00	Beck & Co	704.50	+0.50	85.7
715.00	714.00	Carlsberg	714.50	+0.50	86.9
725.00	724.00	Heineken	724.50	+0.50	88.1
735.00	734.00	Kaiser Brewery	734.50	+0.50	89.3
745.00	744.00	Miller Brewing	744.50	+0.50	90.5
755.00	754.00	Orkla ASA	754.50	+0.50	91.7
765.00	764.00	Royal Unibrew	764.50	+0.50	92.9
775.00	774.00	Tate & Lyle	774.50	+0.50	94.1
785.00	784.00	Wassermann	784.50	+0.50	95.3
795.00	794.00	Ykkoyama	794.50	+0.50	96.5
805.00	804.00	Zyngex	804.50	+0.50	97.7
815.00	814.00	Asahi Breweries	814.50	+0.50	98.9
825.00	824.00	Beck & Co	824.50	+0.50	100.1
835.00	834.00	Carlsberg	834.50	+0.50	101.3
845.00	844.00	Heineken	844.50	+0.50	102.5
855.00	854.00	Kaiser Brewery	854.50	+0.50	103.7
865.00	864.00	Miller Brewing	864.50	+0.50	104.9
875.00	874.00	Orkla ASA	874.50	+0.50	106.1
885.00	884.00	Royal Unibrew	884.50	+0.50	107.3
895.00	894.00	Tate & Lyle	894.50	+0.50	108.5
905.00	904.00	Wassermann	904.50	+0.50	109.7
915.00	914.00	Ykkoyama	914.50	+0.50	110.9
925.00	924.00	Zyngex	924.50	+0.50	112.1
935.00	934.00	Asahi Breweries	934.50	+0.50	113.3
945.00	944.00	Beck & Co	944.50	+0.50	114.5
955.00	954.00	Carlsberg	954.50	+0.50	115.7
965.00	964.00	Heineken	964.50	+0.50	116.9
975.00	974.00	Kaiser Brewery	974.50	+0.50	118.1
985.00	984.00	Miller Brewing	984.50	+0.50	119.3
995.00	994.00	Orkla ASA	994.50	+0.50	120.5
1005.00	1004.00	Royal Unibrew	1004.50	+0.50	121.7
1015.00	1014.00	Tate & Lyle	1014.50	+0.50	122.9
1025.00	1024.00	Wassermann	1024.50	+0.50	124.1
1035.00	1034.00	Ykkoyama	1034.50	+0.50	125.3
1045.00	1044.00	Zyngex	1044.50	+0.50	126.5
1055.00	1054.00	Asahi Breweries	1054.50	+0.50	127.7
1065.00	1064.00	Beck & Co	1064.50	+0.50	128.9
1075.00	1074.00	Carlsberg	1074.50	+0.50	130.1
1085.00	1084.00	Heineken	1084.50	+0.50	131.3
1095.00	1094.00	Kaiser Brewery	1094.50	+0.50	132.5
1105.00	1104.00	Miller Brewing	1104.50	+0.50	133.7
1115.00	1114.00	Orkla ASA	1114.50	+0.50	134.9
1125.00	1124.00	Royal Unibrew	1124.50	+0.50	136.1
1135.00	1134.00	Tate & Lyle	1134.50	+0.50	137.3
1145.00	1144.00	Wassermann	1144.50	+0.50	138.5
1155.00	1154.00	Ykkoyama	1154.50	+0.50	139.7
1165.00	1164.00	Zyngex	1164.50	+0.50	140.9
1175.00	1174.00	Asahi Breweries	1174.50	+0.50	142.1
1185.00	1184.00	Beck & Co	1184.50	+0.50	143.3
1195.00	1194.00	Carlsberg	1194.50	+0.50	144.5
1205.00	1204.00	Heineken	1204.50	+0.50	145.7
1215.00	1214.00	Kaiser Brewery	1214.50	+0.50	146.9
1225.00	1224.00	Miller Brewing	1224.50	+0.50	148.1
1235.00	1234.00	Orkla ASA	1234.50	+0.50	149.3
1245.00	1244.00	Royal Unibrew	1244.50	+0.50	150.5
1255.00	1254.00	Tate & Lyle	1254.50	+0.50	151.7
1265.00	1264.00	Wassermann	1264.50	+0.50	152.9
1275.00	1274.00	Ykkoyama	1274.50	+0.50	154.1
1285.00	1284.00	Zyngex	1284.50	+0.50	155.3
1295.00	1294.00	Asahi Breweries	1294.50	+0.50	156.5
1305.00	1304.00	Beck & Co	1304.50	+0.50	157.7
1315.00	1314.00	Carlsberg	1314.50	+0.50	158.9
1325.00	1324.00	Heineken	1324.50	+0.50	160.1
1335.00	1334.00	Kaiser Brewery	1334.50	+0.50	161.3
1345.00	1344.00	Miller Brewing	1344.50	+0.50	162.5
1355.00	1354.00	Orkla ASA	1354.50	+0.50	163.7
1365.00	1364.00	Royal Unibrew	1364.50	+0.50	164.9
1375.00	1374.00	Tate & Lyle	1374.50	+0.50	166.1
1385.00	1384.00	Wassermann	1384.50	+0.50	167.3
1395.00	1394.00	Ykkoyama	1394.50	+0.50	168.5
1405.00	1404.00	Zyngex	1404.50	+0.50	169.7
1415.00	1414.00	Asahi Breweries	1414.50	+0.50	170.9
1425.00	1424.00	Beck & Co	1424.50	+0.50	172.1
1435.00	1434.00	Carlsberg	1434.50	+0.50	173.3
1445.00	1444.00	Heineken	1444.50	+0.50	174.5
1455.00	1454.00	Kaiser Brewery	1454.50	+0.50	175.7
1465.00	1464.00	Miller Brewing	1464.50	+0.50	176.9
1475.00	1474.00	Orkla ASA	1474.50	+0.50	178.1
1485.00	1484.00	Royal Unibrew	1484.50	+0.50	179.3
1495.00	1494.00	Tate & Lyle	1494.50	+0.50	180.5
1505.00	1504.00	Wassermann	1504.50	+0.50	181.7
1515.00	1514.00	Ykkoyama	1514.50	+0.50	182.9
1525.00	1524.00	Zyngex	1524.50	+0.50	184.1
1535.00	1534.00	Asahi Breweries	1534.50	+0.50	185.3
1545.00	1544.00	Beck & Co	1544.50	+0.50	186.5
1555.00	1554.00	Carlsberg	1554.50	+0.50	187.7
1565.00	1564.00	Heineken	1564.50	+0.50	188.9
1575.00	1574.00	Kaiser Brewery	1574.50	+0.50	190.1
1585.00	1584.00	Miller Brewing	1584.50	+0.50	191.3
1595.00	1594.00	Orkla ASA	1594.50	+0.50	192.5
1605.00	1604.00	Royal Unibrew	1604.50	+0.50	193.7
1615.00	1614.00	Tate & Lyle	1614.50	+0.50	194.9
1625.00	1624.00	Wassermann	1624.50	+0.50	196.1
1635.00	1634.00	Ykkoyama	1634.50	+0.50	197.3
1645.00	1644.00	Zyngex	1644.50	+0.50	198.5
1655.00	1654.00	Asahi Breweries	1654.50	+0.50	199.7
1665.00	1664.00	Beck & Co	1664.50	+0.50	200.9
1675.00	1674.00	Carlsberg	1674.50	+0.50	202.1
1685.00	1684.00	Heineken	1684.50	+0.50	203.3
1695.00	1694.00	Kaiser Brewery	1694.50	+0.50	204.5
1705.00	1704.00	Miller Brewing	1704.50	+0.50	205.7
1715.00	1714.00	Orkla ASA	1714.50	+0.50	206.9
1725.00	1724.00	Royal Unibrew	1724.50	+0.50	208.1
1735.00	1734.00	Tate & Lyle	1734.50	+0.50	209.3
1745.00	1744.00	Wassermann	1744.50	+0.50	210.5
1755.00	1754.00	Ykkoyama	1754.50	+0.50	211.7
1765.00	1764.00	Zyngex	1764.50	+0.50	212.9
1775.00	1774.00	Asahi Breweries	1774.50	+0.50	214.1
1785.00	1784.00	Beck & Co	1784.50	+0.50	215.3
1795.00	1794.00	Carlsberg	1794.50	+0.50	216.5
1805.00	1804.00	Heineken	1804.50	+0.50	217.7
1815.00	1814.00	Kaiser Brewery	1814.50	+0.50	218.9
1825.00	1824.00	Miller Brewing	1824.50	+0.50	220.1
1835.00	1834.00	Orkla ASA	1834.50	+0.50	221.3
1845.00	1844.00	Royal Unibrew	1844.50	+0.50	222.5
1855.00	1854.00	Tate & Lyle	1854.50	+0.50	223.7
1865.00	1864.00	Wassermann	1864.50	+0.50	224.9
1875.00	1874.00	Ykkoyama	1874.50	+0.50	226.1
1885.00	1884.00	Zyngex	1884.50	+0.50	227.3

30 UNIT TRUST PRICES

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized into columns with headers like 'Fund Name', 'Bid', 'Ask', and 'Change'. Includes sub-sections for various fund categories.

Special Bike Ride - 20th - 28th Feb 1999. Includes text about the Action Research Bike Ride, a map of the route, and contact information for the application.

Large advertisement for Grisham's Scotch Whisky, featuring a bottle image and the text 'Grisham's Scotch Whisky'.



THE TIMES ARTS

EDINBURGH
From the school hall to the Fringe
PAGE 33



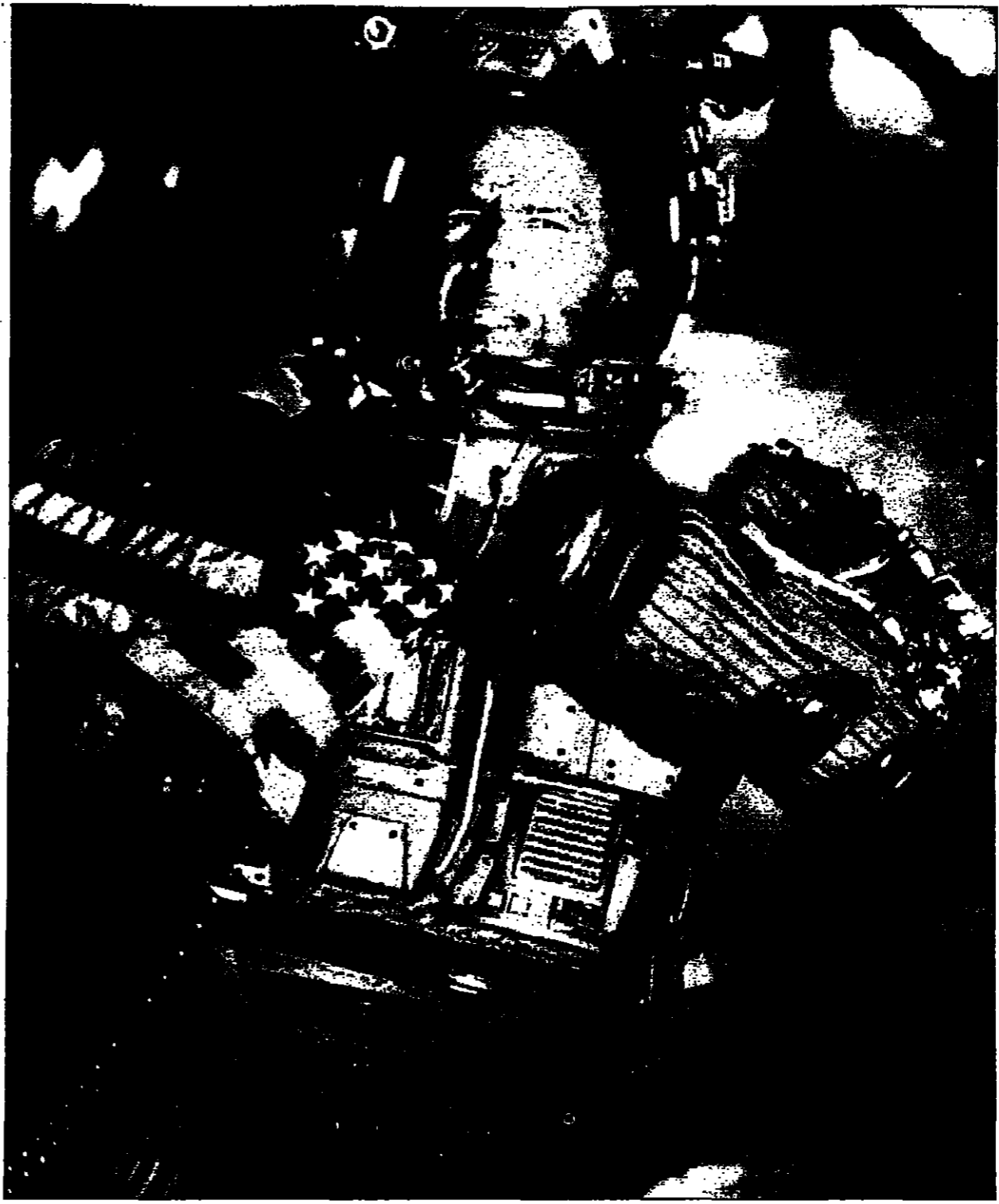
Bruce comes to the rescue, again

NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown finds something strangely familiar about Mr Willis's latest all-action thriller

Billy Bob Thornton, the executive director of Nasa, warns the President that the world is in danger from another huge asteroid, just a few months after the disaster averted in *Deep Impact*. "What kind of danger?" "Total," he says, clipped and professional; "what we call a Global Killer. The end of mankind. Nothing would survive, not even bacteria."

- Armageddon**
Odeon Leicester Square, 12.151 mins
Bruce Willis saves the world, but is it worth it?
- The Adventures of Robin Hood**
Curzon Mayfair, U, 102 mins
Errol Flynn stars in the Hollywood evergreen
- Zero Effect**
Warner West End, 15, 116 mins
Cockeyed detective thriller
- To Have & To Hold**
Metro, 18, 100 mins
Metodramatic folly set in Papua New Guinea
- The Traveller**
ICA Cinema, 75 mins
Iranian wonder from Abbas Kiarostami

look askance, as well they may: this rag-bag is going to save the world? Oh well. Such is the world, perhaps. They suit up, parcelled into two separate Shunles, dock at a crumbling Russian station, and head further into space, brawling and joking like overgrown juveniles, weaving in and out of Dream Quest Images' largely excellent special effects. Down at Nasa, worried heads stare at computers; and Liv Tyler wanders, out of place, fearing for her Dad (Bruce Willis) and his right-hand man (Ben Affleck), who had spent his last romantic moments on Earth running animal biscuits over her body.



Bruce Willis covers himself in Old Glory, if not exactly in glory, as he prepares to save the human race in *Armageddon*

SNAP VERDICT 'Stupid, but good fun'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

ARMAGEDDON
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 20: A really stupid but really enjoyable movie. The best blockbuster so far this summer.
Carl Clark, 19: Bruce Willis gives the same old performance but *Good Will Hunting* star, Ben Affleck, is excellent.
Alison Juffard, 20: As far from art as it's possible to get.
Charlotte Dalley, 19: A brainless film that somehow keeps your attention. A true popcorn movie.

ZERO EFFECT
Leslie: I just loved it. Intelligent cinema lives.
Carl: Debut writer/director Jake Kasdan gives us an intriguing and accomplished film — and he's only 22.
Alison: A really decent little movie that will keep you guessing.
Charlotte: A brilliant whodunnit with a stunning central performance from Bill Pullman. He's the tops.

TO HAVE & TO HOLD
Leslie: Never dull or predictable. Australian cinema doesn't get any better than this.
Carl: Involves you so fully that the suspense will kill you.
Alison: This will really keep you on the edge of your seat. My nails suffered badly!
Charlotte: A movie to chill you to the bone. At times unpleasant, but always entertaining.

Something very similar, of course, happened in *Deep Impact*, Hollywood's other contribution to pre-millennium jitters: so much for the brain power of the six credited writers on *Armageddon*. But the effect of these two movies is very different. Though it waded knee-deep in corn, *Deep Impact* did allow its characters a few tender thoughts about things that make life worth living. *Armageddon*, for better or worse, never even pretends to be fancy and sensitive.

"Kick a little asteroid butt!" the cry goes up on the gnarled and spiky rock in space. And Willis's team are the ones to deliver. He picks his own oil drilling team: roughnecks, musclemen, university dropouts, several with criminal records, and one (Steve Buscemi) with a breast fetish — a crew not a million miles from the types in *Con Air*, the previous extravaganza from director Michael Bay and producer Jerry Bruckheimer.

America stands at the centre of the Universe: when debris first falls, it hits Manhattan, demolishing the usual landmarks, sending yellow taxis hurtling into the air; and no other nation is allowed the muscle to ride to the planet's rescue. Once up in space, the colour scheme narrows to grey and black, though luckily Bay took the precaution of insisting on space helmets that let us see the actors' faces. For all its noise and stupidity, this is a friendlier, more humane film than its chief summer rival, *Godzilla*.

cinema screen. No other role gave Errol Flynn such a showcase: no other Robin Hood has been so ebullient, or youthful, or looked so lovely in leggings. The film, at the time Warners' most expensive yet, bears two directors' names, William Keighley started off, then was ditched halfway when the producer worried that his action scenes lacked bite. So Michael Curtiz marched in, staging the duels, the leaps and bounds, with ruthless panache. They might not seem so splendid, though, if Erich Wolfgang Korngold's sumptuous and athletic music were not such a source of energy itself.

which is part of the trouble: this cockeyed detective thriller, his first feature, would certainly play better if less were being attempted. A leading character, and a leading actor, easier to like, would also help. Bill Pullman pushes his luck as the unkempt, bizarre Daryl Zero, supposedly the world's top private eye, with a "deeply nuanced understanding of human behaviour". Zero is also socially inept, reclusive and paranoid, able to communicate only through an assistant (Ben Stiller, crisp and sardonic). Zero starts to break his house rules when an attractive woman, played by Kim Dickens, surfaces in his current case, which also involves lumber tycoon Ryan O'Neal, a missing key and blackmail.

Kasdan makes excellent use of his unfamiliar setting of Portland, Oregon, and once the tale is up and running (something of a slow business) shapes agreeable offbeat moments. But the film's eccentricities are badly controlled; and they sit oddly with the tired thriller conventions that are visible elsewhere. Once he loosens up, Kasdan might create something less artificial.

To Have & To Hold is another film of unfulfilled ambitions. Ten years ago the Australian director John Hillcoat won acclaim for his first feature, *Ghosts... Of the Civil Dead*, an intense drama set in a remote prison. This is his second, dealing with prisons of the mind, set in a Papua New Guinea stocked with drunken white expatriates, post-colonial violence, a good deal of sweat, and whirring fans.

No tush is in sight in the wonderful *The Traveller*, the first feature film from the Iranian marvel Abbas Kiarostami, made in 1974 when the Shah was still in power. A child is at the centre: a football fanatic determined to travel to Tehran for the season's big match. To pay for his jaunt he fishes money, tries selling oddments, and delightfully wheedles small change from his schoolmates by pretending to snap their photographs.

"An extraordinarily assured and imaginative film..."
WINNER
A MASTERPIECE...
★★★★ "BRILLIANT... this is A MASTERPIECE"
★★★★ "One of the MOST ORIGINAL cop movies ever made"
"An EXCELLENT thriller with IMPECCABLE STYLE"

A FILM BY TAKESHI KITANO
HANA-BI

ABC METRO

The rest of the cast scarcely twiddle their thumbs. Olivia de Havilland, some- times welcome spunk into her Maid Marian; and no villainous modern double-act can ever approach the appeal of Basil Rathbone's wicked Sir Guy de Gisborne and the suave evil of Claude Rains's Prince John. "You remember that day in Sherwood Forest?" Marian asks Robin at one point. Impossible not to; this is one of those Hollywood classics that never fades.

Zero Effect, on the other hand, makes little impression, though enough signs suggest that its 22-year-old writer and director, Jake Kasdan, has a talent worth nurturing. He is the son of Lawrence Kasdan, director of *The Big Chill*, and other thoughtful entertainments. Jake likes to think, too,

Kiarostami's recent films take an oblique approach to moral problems. Here he stares head-on, capturing the human drama in street scenes crammed with the kind of raw poetry that directors from the pampered West seem to have lost sight of. The film is playing in London for only a week; do catch it if you can.

A MOODY AND EROTIC FILM ABOUT THE POWER OF DESIRE.

Raphaël Karyo
Stephen Dilworth

Russian has no limits.

FIRELIGHT

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AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

LISTINGS

Dame Diana in Malvern

RECOMMENDED TODAY
Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by James Christopher
LONDON
BBC PROMS: A British programme brings together Elgar's Enigma Variations with the pioneering Manifesto of John Foulds...



Diana Rigg takes on Racine's Phèdre at Malvern
Julian Glover, Barbara Jefford and Toby Stephens. Presented by the Almeida Theatre Company...

Jewel discovered in park

There are usually sound reasons why minor works of art are minor, and why neglected ones are neglected. But Francesco Cilea's L'Arlesiana won me over...

OPERA

ther-figure shepherd frame the little Provencal triangle. Cilea's music meets Alphonse Daudet's simple tale with affecting honesty, disarming sentiment and considerable refinement...

HILARY FINCH



Tree people: Rufus Sewell and Emily Wolf discover the complexities of love in an evocative adaptation of Thomas Hardy's The Woodlanders

Fervour in the forest

THE WOODLANDERS
For Pathé, U, 1997
FOR A few minutes it seems we might be watching a Monty Python sketch, but then the Wessex rustics settle down...

NEW ON VIDEO
nial's purpose and sees the best of French Cinema as well as the best of British Cinema...

RESURRECTION MAN
PolyGram, 18, 1997
SOMEWHERE in Northern Ireland in the 1970s, in a city riddled with sectarian violence...

UP 'N' UNDER
Entertainment, 12, 1997
CAN the Wheatheaf Arms' amateur rugby team defy a four-year losing streak...

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
House full, returns only
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Seats at all prices

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the best movies
DOCTOR DOLITTLE (PG): Doctor Eddie Murphy finds a new lease of life...

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Abbado's new Mozart recording; rare but rewarding Weill; and an operatic star in Lieder

OPERA
MOZART
Don Giovanni
Remigo/Isokoski/Pace/Hellmann/Keenlyside/Terfel/D'Arco/Salmieri/Chamber Orch of Europe/Abbado

ORCHESTRAL
WEILL
Symphony No 2 Violin Concerto: Mahagonny Suite
Zimmermann/Berlin PO/Jansons

VOCAL
DEDICATION
Heppner/Rutenberg
BMC/RCA 09026 63104.2

OPERA
MOZART
Don Giovanni
Remigo/Isokoski/Pace/Hellmann/Keenlyside/Terfel/D'Arco/Salmieri/Chamber Orch of Europe/Abbado

OPERA
MOZART
Don Giovanni
Remigo/Isokoski/Pace/Hellmann/Keenlyside/Terfel/D'Arco/Salmieri/Chamber Orch of Europe/Abbado

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DOCTOR DOLITTLE

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BLACK COMEDY

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DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL
MISS SAIGON
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

THEATRES

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EDINBURGH

Youngsters on the Fringe

A squeak away from fame

EDINBURGH: Jason Nissé applauds the ambition of Haileybury pupils in staging a musical spectacular on a shoestring

A pig, a princess, a British cat and 32 teenagers from a famous public school will come together at a small theatre in Edinburgh this month. Their aim? To produce a musical that will whistle up an oriental wind strong enough to bother Lord Lloyd-Webber.

Though it is a long way from the Moray House Theatre in the shadow of Holyroodhouse Palace to the West End of London, the pupils of Haileybury College in Hertfordshire have ambitions. Fired by good reviews from the local press and Theatreworld Internet Magazine (which described the piece as "original", "full of gorgeous melodies" and "an intriguing piece of musical theatre") the kids from Haileybury see themselves as a new Beyond the Fringe. And they hope to be spotted before they go to university in the autumn.

The Haileybury show, The Year of the Pig, started life as an opera written by Zachary Dunbar, the artist in residence at the Lutyns-designed school. Not many schools have an artist in residence, but then Haileybury, with its sporting and artistic traditions (Sir Alan Ayckbourn was at school there) and its links with the old East India Company, is hardly a typical school.

The opera drew on the school's oriental history to tell an involved tale of a doomed relationship between a princess and a pig in the last years of the Manchu dynasty. Chu, the pig, is consigned to the Imperial Palace's menagerie where he is ensnared by a cat from Britain.

What follows is a complex story of intrigue, tragedy and revolution involving a royal funeral, a voracious press corps and a mock trial. Dunbar claims the musical has echoes of Hamanmen Square and the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

But as in most musicals, the link is not always clear.

It was then transformed into a musical, with a smaller cast, a running time cut from three hours to 100 minutes, less elaborate sets and what Dunbar describes as a "typical West End score with a few soaring ballads". The plot was simplified, though not that much, and even at its shorter length the whole production has a touch of the spectacular.

The pupils who make up the cast and crew have effectively been made the producers of the show. Though the school and the Haileybury Trust are putting up money to back the Edinburgh run, most of the money to stage the production is coming from the pupils, who have first call on the ticket money.

The logistics of taking the production to Edinburgh have always put off the Haileybury staff, despite a long tradition of the school writing and producing its own work. Dunbar — who arrived there eight years ago as a piano teacher — has already written one well-received production, Texas Eddy was a modern version of Oedipus Rex based in the fictional town of Delphi, Texas.

Though some of the issues involved went over the heads of some of the school governors, enthusiastic reviews from the local media meant that Texas Eddy gained quite a following in Hertfordshire. Those who turn up at the Moray Theatre will be treated to a stunning central performance by Clare Emma Martin as the Princess Jade. This is despite it being a non-speaking part, which she dances with a mix of classical ballet and oriental dance.

The rest of the cast are not too bad either, with most of them now fairly comfortable about appearing on stage after a few try-outs in the opulent assembly hall at Haileybury. On John Corbett — who plays "The Times man" — I don't feel qualified to pass judgment. The logistics have also been sorted. Dunbar was left rather to organise everything as most of the cast were a little too preoccupied with A levels to find their own accommodation (not the sort of problem Sir Cameron Mackintosh tends to suffer). "We're working with youngsters, not professionals, and on a shoestring, not a £1 million budget," says Dunbar. "But we intend to make it feel just like being at a West End musical."

It might not be Miss Saigon, but you can't fault their ambitions. The Year of the Pig runs from Sunday to Aug 15 at 4pm at the Moray House Theatre, Venue 167.



Alan Reiss as the pig and Kate Gould as the cat in the musical The Year of the Pig from Haileybury School. The school's pupils are the cast, crew and producers of the show

ARTS

PROMS

Elgar with Yo-Yo

On the scale between inhibition and exhibitionism, the cellist Yo-Yo Ma inclines unapologetically towards the latter. Twisting round in his seat to communicate with a section of the orchestra, or perhaps to catch the attention of the audience, he gives a performance that has to be seen to be fully appreciated. Not that the showmanship is empty gesturing; on the contrary, it is so patently a part of his musical personality that one cannot reasonably object to it.

In Tuesday's Prom with the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Tadaaki Otaka, he poured out his rich, generous tone in Dvorak's Cello Concerto: a sonic experience to savour. The drama of the first movement elicited from him playing of fire and passion. But even more ravishing were the gently tapered curves of the Adagio's closing bars, giving way to exquisitely voiced chords on trombones and tuba.

If there was a shaky moment in the lower brass at a similar juncture in the finale, it is worth mentioning only for its rarity. For the rest, the orchestral playing was exemplary, with Lorna McGhee's solo flute contribution particularly notable.

That professionalism was in evidence, too, in Elgar's Symphony No 1: a beautifully executed account as far as the orchestra was concerned. Among the most memorable passages were the ethereal recapitulation of the motto theme in the first movement after the turbulence

Extrovert takes bow

PROMS

BBC SO/Otaka
Albert Hall/Radio 3

been an outstanding reading. But his tendency to skate over the switches of mood, and an unwillingness to revel in the emotionalism that is surely a hallmark of this music, sold the work short. A strong sense of line and direction was at least evident, the brass powering through in the final pages to exultant effect. Less convincing was the ending of Panufnik's Katyn Epitaph, a lament on the massacre of 15,000 Polish soldiers during the Second World War, the abruptness of which scarcely supported the structure of the whole — a concise but well-elaborated piece of considerable expressive impact. I suspect that in this case the fault was that of composer rather than interpreter.

Extrovert takes bow

PROMS

BBC SO/Otaka
Albert Hall/Radio 3

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No help for a party in distress



Prole position: Charlie Buckland and Rosalind Adler

Political farces are rather like fairground coconut shies: crude hit-or-miss affairs that pitch the skill of the thrower against deserving but madly elusive targets. In Fouad Zloof and Eva Lynn's pre-election satire the coconuts are 24ft wide, sit on golf tees and the balls are fired from a bazooka at point-blank range. That the resultant mess is less than impressive is due entirely to the paltry contents of the nuts.

Cliff Harvey's ambition to be nominated as the next Labour MP of his Yorkshire constituency seems doomed from the moment his wife Penny opens her mouth. She is the classic Hampstead socialist who champions Clement Attlee and Aneurin Bevan's brave new world of 1945 over breakfast. He is a red-hot Blairite prepared to thump any old tub to be selected.

Their daughter, Catherine, all dressed up for her private school, isn't given enough stage directions actually to get there. Phyllis, the housemaid, changes the bed linen so she can drag in the plight of the miners, 18-month waiting lists for hip replacements and fear of the single currency. Charlie Buckland's John, the proletarian car mechanic, waxes lyrical about negative equity before being transformed by a farcical sequence into some sort of



gay stud for a Gold Blend coffee advert.

Their mutual Waterloo is a dinner party for the local selection committee, played by cartoon caricatures of John Prescott and Peter Mandelson. Laugh? We nearly broke our forks over the originality of it all. The fact that it is performed at 100mph does little for continuity and character.

While Christopher Howell's abrasive university lecturer, Cliff, desperately tries to gag his wife and wash over the fact that he owns two cars and has his eye on an expensive London pied-à-terre, Rosalind Adler's frumpy Penny turns over his working-class credentials like a bad poker hand.

If Cliff's dastardly compromises and Penny's indigestible idealism are the combustible ingredients of this play, these two writers need a lot more lighter fuel. Anything that makes television's Alan B'Stard look a model of political sophistication deserves everything it gets.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Heart of America

DANCE



that Tharp so eloquently brings to the stage. Here is the ethos that built America distilled into 20 minutes of stirring dance. In its own way, Heroes also deals with a fundamental American theme. In a country of epic landscape and mythic struggle, heroes are an essential entry in the popular lexicon. But America is also a nation which overinflates its heroes, and Tharp explores their essential contradiction: heroes are tough, but it's tough being a hero. Her trio of heroic males (Andrew Robinson, Roger Jeffrey and Nigel Burley) are isolated by their stature. Their aggression

is a mask for vulnerability, intransigence is a cover for their uncertainty.

Tharp's language combines an elastic lyricism with ultra-slick phrasing and she keeps her 11 dancers on the run. Set to Philip Glass's Heroes, a "symphonic ballet" inspired by David Bowie and Brian Eno's landmark 1970s recording, it is the kind of dance minimalist music usually generates — propulsive and layered, with exhilarating shifts of focus and emphasis. Tharp's wonderful company of young dancers give it everything.

The final work on the programme, 66, takes its name from the legendary highway that connects the American Midwest to the Pacific Ocean. Route 66 was travelled by countless migrants in search of a better life, including Tharp herself as a child. Here, almost 50 years later, she revisits this geographical icon. Her piece, set to cheesy songs described as "music from the ultimate 1950s bachelor pad", is sweetly affectionate, some might even say cute. But the nostalgia is real, and Julie Stahl and Andrew Robinson as the young couple are a treat, he so cock of the walk and she the ultimate frivolous teenager.

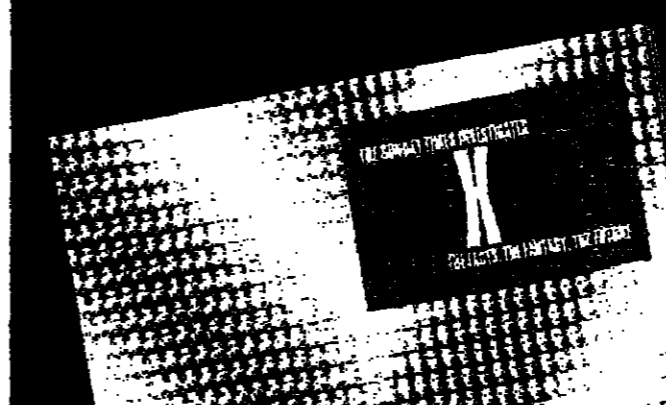
DEBRA CRAINE

Twyla Tharp's second London programme, a triple bill of works made in 1996, is a much happier event than her first. This week she is "going American", a choreographic persona that suits her particularly well. For Tharp has a way of getting to the heart of America's cultural touchstones and investing them with an intellectual nobility, even when she seems to be poking fun at them. And when she does take her material seriously, the result can be stunning.

Such is the case with Sweet Fields, a shimmering work set to 19th-century Shaker hymns and other religious choral music from 18th-century America, a time when pioneer settlers were building their country from scratch. The fields were indeed fertile, but only with the sweat of human toil would they bear fruit. Tharp's choreography celebrates the divinity of hard work and self-sacrifice through gesture, while idealising the community through fluent and felicitous phrases for the ensemble. There is no room for the individual in this God-fearing society, but there are rewards in the spiritual collective, primary among them the sheer joy of committing oneself to a higher purpose. And it is the ecstasy of the meeting-house

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CON ARTIST? The life of Kahlil Gibran

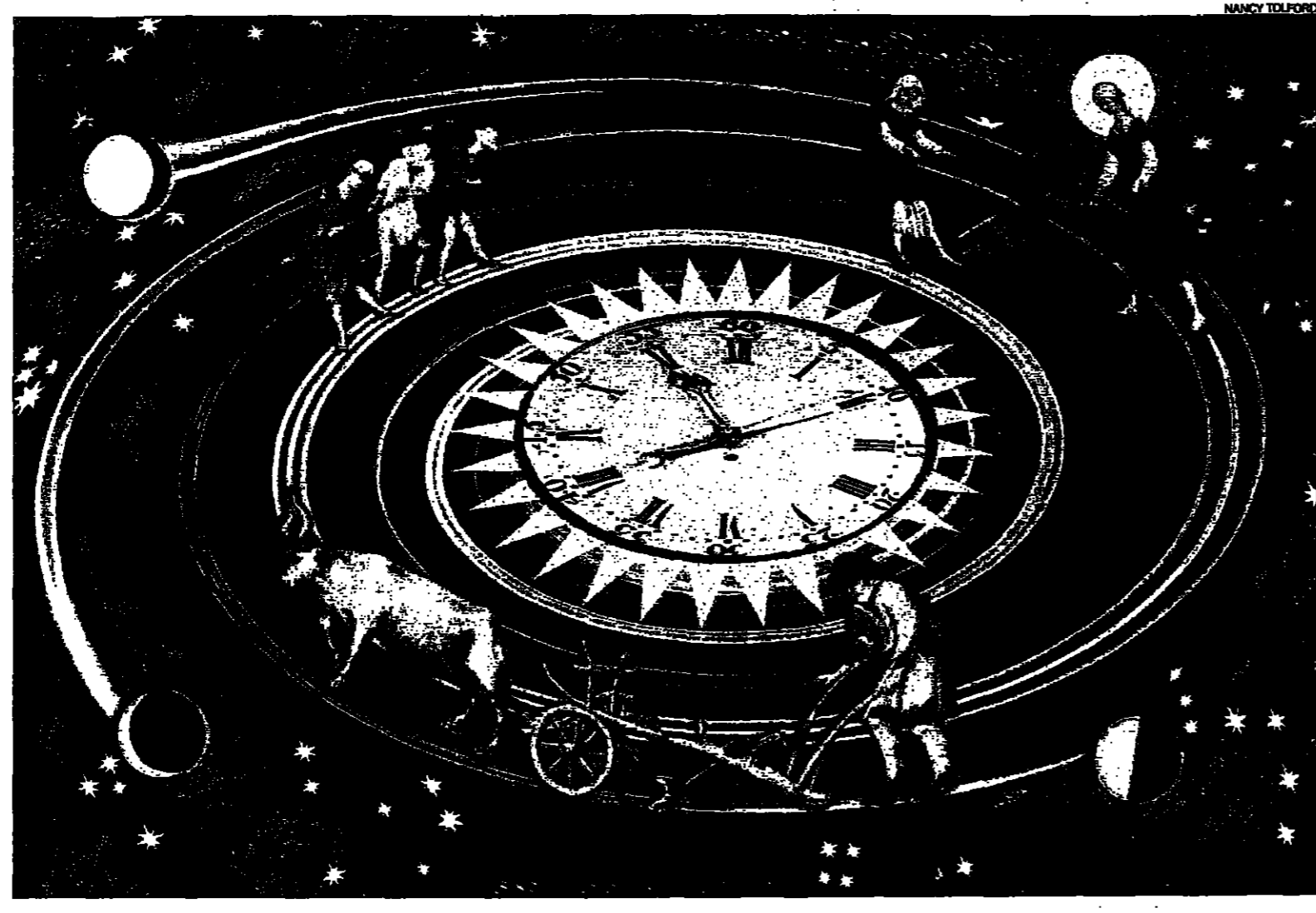
BOOKS

A GREAT ROMP Making the calendar

A brief history of time

The story of the calendar is not much more than a great yarn, says Kristen Lippincott

Like the fabled London buses, it seems that you wait decades for a book on the history of the calendar and, finally, three come round the corner all at once. The first to appear was Arno Borst's erudite study of the mathematics of the calendar, first published in German in 1990 and translated for English readers in 1993 as The Ordering of Time: From the Ancient Computus to the Modern Computer (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1993). Borst's recounting of the story of the development of the calendar merits nothing but praise. It is clear, concise, well-researched and wholly reliable - a valuable touchstone for those interested in the philosophy and mechanics of timekeeping.



Next was Stephen Jay Gould's Questioning the Millennium: A Rationalist's Guide to a precisely arbitrary Countdown (New York: Harmony Books, 1997), an engaging, cheeky look at the absurdities of the calendar, written in a style that preserves all the excitement and immediacy of a well-crafted lecture. It is filled with insider's jokes and comic asides, while still managing to be fundamentally sound.

The most recent of the three, David Ewing Duncan's The Calendar, is a charming and well-written ramble through history. With a talent for evocative descriptions of distant times and places, he leads us from neolithic France to the fertile lands of Ancient Mesopotamia, from Egypt to Central America, Western China and the banks of the Ganges River, back through Islam to the reawakening lands of the medieval Latin West, and onwards towards the Renaissance, the Gregorian Reform and, finally, to the adoption of Universal Co-ordinated Time in 1972. We encounter heroes and villains,

popes and emperors, damsels in not-too-great distress, cold and disgruntled Roman foot soldiers on the banks of the Rhine and fusty old monks, desperate to find the right date to celebrate Easter. We are told tales of positional notation and intercalary days, punctuated with the poetry of Hesiod, Chaucer, Petrarch and Omar Khayyam. He breathes life into numerous nearly forgotten historical figures, such as Dionysius Exiguus, the Gupta sage Aryabhata or the great Arabic astronomer Abu Jafar Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi, whose existence and contribution to learning was, until now, fondly recollected by only a handful of learned scholars. The book is a good read, deserves to be enjoyed by

a wide audience and it has the kind of pace and direction that could easily lend to its being re-crafted into a thoroughly enjoyable television series. To take it from another perspective, however, one could argue that it is precisely these appealing qualities of the book that raise certain problems. In this age of "infotainment" and so-called "intellectual accessibility", one does begin to feel slightly prudish when one starts to question how books are constructed and presented. Thousands of people may well enjoy this book; some may even have their eyes opened to an unknown and fascinating world where philosophy, religion, astronomy and mathematics converge. But for those of us who already live there, Duncan's book is a bit of a cu-

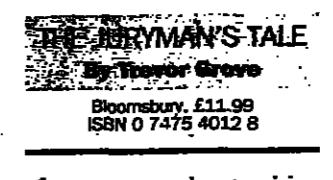
rate's egg. In his search for drama, he does tend to stretch one's credibility. But, when an author is searching for a key with which to unlock lazy minds, is it unreasonable for the scholar to question whether the exact schedule of Julius Caesar and Cleopatra's sex life really contributed to the history of the calendar, or to ask what several pages of excellent description of the "black boils and blotches and strange black swelling the size of apples in their armpits, necks, and groins, oozing pus and blood" that signalled the arriv-

Behind the face of justice

John Mortimer is impressed by a journalist's intimate account of the British jury system

I have this in common with clergymen, lunatics, peers of the realm and convicted felons: I am not allowed to sit on a jury. I did, however, spend a great deal of my life with juries, worrying about which of them were sympathetic, which hard-hearted, inviting them, as a novelist does, to exercise their imagination and wonder what it would have been like to be present at the scene of a crime. Talking to juries was always the best part of a criminal trial, waiting for their decisions the worst. Nowadays the wait seems longer than ever, owing to juries' taste for being sent to hotels. I recall a barrister's view of the jury, Trevor Grove, a distinguished journalist, had a jurymen's view of the court. From it he has written an absorbing, entertaining and valuable book.

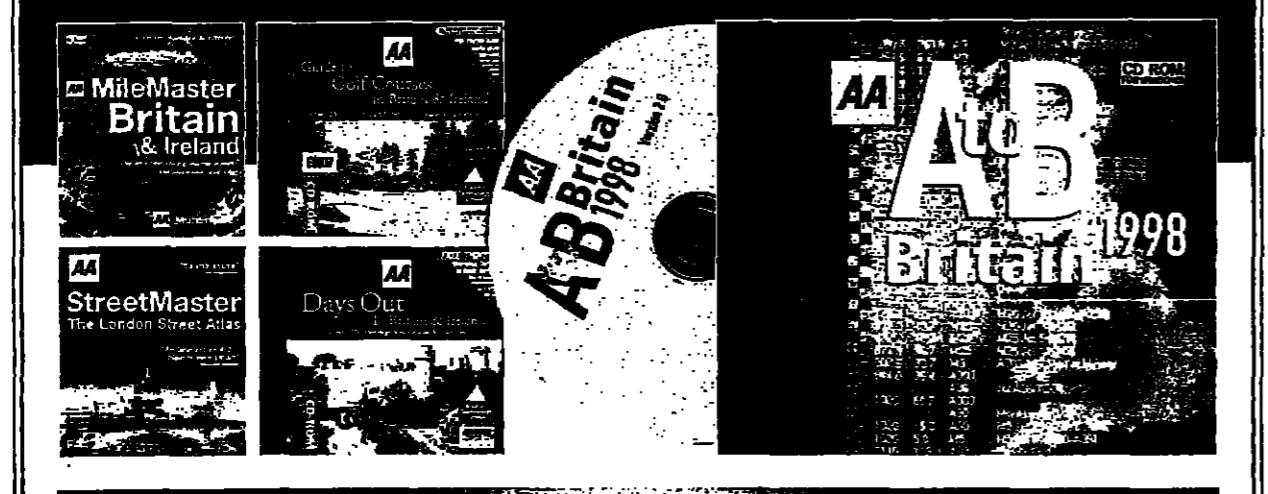
Although American juries rush out, as soon as a trial is over, to discuss every detail of their deliberations with whoever cares to listen, we have always thought that life in the jury room was a closely guarded secret. A notice in the historical No 1 jury room at the Old Bailey forbids any revelation of what has taken place there and the Contempt of Court Act prevents anyone disclosing how a British jury came to its decision. Trevor Grove has respected this provision, but his detailed, astute and humane observation of all other aspects of jury duty make this an important book when juries are under constant, ill-informed and misguided attack. The case he describes concerns the kidnapping for ransom of a Greek gambler and minor shipowner in a shadowy area of north-west London. It lasted from November 18, 1996, to March 26, 1997. There were a number of defendants and the defence was that the alleged victim had staged his own kidnapping in order to raise a large sum of money out of his family to pay his gambling debts. The current charge that juries are ill-educated, inattentive and incapable of following a complicated case is met by this jury, chosen at random, which contained a postman, an office cleaner and a check-out lady from Sainsbury's. It also clocked up a large number of GCSEs and included an educational psychologist and an ex-Editor of The Sunday Telegraph. At least three



of pompous and patronising barristers. Lord Devlin called the jury system "the lamp that shows the light of freedom lives". In the 18th century Blackstone said that the liberties of England depended on the jury system being inviolate. "not only from all open attacks but also from all secret machinations which may sap and undermine it by introducing new and arbitrary methods of trial". It is constantly said that juries can't understand fraud trials, but a competent prosecutor's job is to explain the usually simple con trick which lies behind a mass of figures and a smokescreen of documents. We should not enforce imprisonment for something 12 ordinary citizens can't understand. The career and life of a teacher or a priest might be wrecked by the charge of stealing a £10 book, so there should be no financial limit on the right to trial by jury.

Trevor Grove's book is not only an enjoyable crime story, it should be prescribed reading for Home Secretaries, Lord Chancellors and all those politicians prepared to sell our hard-won liberties off cheap.

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The Confidence Man

Anthony Storr. Newworld, £18.99. ISBN 1 85182 177 9. The Confidence Man. Allen Lane, £10. ISBN 0 7139 9209 3.



False prophet: Kahlil Gibran in his New York studio

Gibran, born in Lebanon in 1893, spent most of his adult life in the US and, long after his death in 1931, became a cult figure for American youth. His book, The Prophet, is described as having become "a kind of underground bible on the college campuses" in the late 1950s and has sold nine million copies since it was first published by Knopf in 1923. Here are two very different biographies. Suheil Bushru'i is the Director of the Gibran Research and Studies Project at the University of Maryland and his co-author Joe Jenkins is a Research Fellow at the same institution. Their biography is a labour of love, which treats his utterances as revelatory. They do record some adverse criticisms of Gibran's work by hostile critics, but the general tone is adulatory and they are obviously disciples, convinced that Gibran was a genuine prophet with important messages for mankind. Robin Waterfield also strains to be fair, but from the opposite position. Waterfield regards Gibran as a boastful narcissist who habitually exploited his disciples emotionally and financially, and thinks little of his early writings. Yet

was never consummated physically, but he reported that they were in constant telepathic communication. By 1928 he was a confirmed alcoholic and died of cirrhosis of the liver in 1931 at the age of 48. I have dutifully read The Prophet and regret that I must count myself among the "elitist and hard-hearted" critics whom Waterfield dismisses. The form of The Prophet is derived from Nietzsche's Thus Spoke Zarathustra. Almustafa is about to return home from his stay in Orphalese, but his reverential disciples beg him to dispense some of his wisdom before leaving them. He then holds forth upon various topics, ranging from love and marriage to houses, clothes, buying and selling and the law.

The language employed is high-flown rhetoric which at first sounds impressive, but does not stand up to closer scrutiny: "You would touch with your fingers the naked body of your dream?" "For what is prayer but an expansion of yourself into the living ether." At one point Gibran writes: "If these be vague words, then seek not to clear them." Clarity is the enemy of pretentiousness and Gibran knew it. Gibran's identification of himself with Christ is obvious when he writes: "But should my voice fade in your ears, and my love vanish in your memory, then I will come again." He was a firm believer in reincarnation. These two books raise the puzzling question of how it is that some charlatans possess charisma. The sales figures do not prove that The Prophet "strikes a chord, responds to something deep". On the contrary, they show that nine million readers responded to something shallow.

IN HIS STUDENT DAYS, Gibran became convinced that he had a prophetic mission. Like other dubious gurus, he attacked disciples without making friends. He was an habitual liar who falsified his past. He invented a testimonial from the sculptor Rodin which alleged that he was the "William Blake of the 20th-century" in order to promote one of his books. He claimed to be in love with a woman called May Ziadeh, and conducted a passionate correspondence with her; but they never met, and the relationship remained epistolary. Throughout most of his life in the US he was financially and emotionally supported by Mary Haskell, a rich woman who adored him and who edited his books. Their love

TURNED TO BE WILL... Rock... climax to... labour... of love... An English...

BORNEO TO BE WILD
The life of a British Rajah

BOOKS

BEHIND THE SCENES
The forgotten feminist

Richard Ellis praises a down-to-earth Yorkshireman for a unique and lovingly crafted book that tells us exactly where we are

Rock and role of geology

The first of Roger Osborne's 25 "stories" is a single paragraph about two sisters out walking in Yorkshire, one of whom is decapitated by a falling splinter of rock. The second — which explains the title of the book — is about the history of alum, and would be enough for me to recommend this wonderful tome. Here we meet Francis Bacon, assorted Chinese chemists, Martin Luther, Agricola and various other notables, all of whom are assembled to lay the cornerstone for a lucid, beautifully structured collection of essays, stories, and historical observations, that will somehow lead us to the beginning of the new science of geology.



An engraving of a fossil marine crocodile, found in 1824

The book is written by a Yorkshireman with Yorkshire as its centre: alum was found at Sandstead; Edward Topham's meteorite fell at Wold Cottage near Scarborough; James Cook was born in 1728 south of Middlesbrough and his flagship Endeavour was originally a Whitby collier. But this is a book about the world. In the study of the various fossil reptiles found in the shales (the book discusses ten, each of which is assigned its own chapter), we are introduced to the subject of vertebrate palaeontology, which among other

things, has revealed some of our earliest ancestors and a wealth of dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures. There are lengthy excerpts from people like Edward Topham and Captain Cook, and some of the chapters are composed entirely of quotation. (The book contains the

entire body of work — all 2,000 words — of one Louis Hutton, who, in 1836, published the first discussion of biostratigraphy, the study of fossils in layers of rock that enables us to identify the period during which certain animals lived.) The Floating Egg is a delicately balanced collection

of voices, every one of which contributes to the momentum of the book, and its satisfactory conclusion. At the opening of Chapter 7, Osborne introduces us to the Whitby Museum, by telling us that "Spending an afternoon in the museum is like rummaging through the attic

of a well-travelled, curious, obsessive, wealthy, slightly dotty and long-lived ancestor". I don't know how wealthy Osborne is, and I have no reason to call him even slightly dotty, but he is certainly well-travelled (at least in Yorkshire), curious and obsessive, to which I would add well-read,

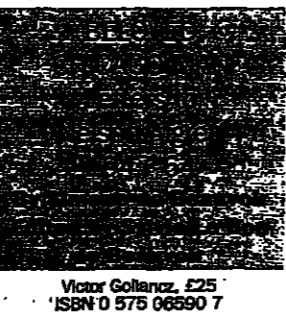
THE FLOATING EGG
Episodes in the Making of Geology
By Roger Osborne
Jonathan Cape, £14.99
ISBN 0 224 05028 19

to do with the discovery in a Yorkshire cave of the bones of hyenas, elephants, tigers, bears, wolves, rabbits, foxes, weasels and mice. It's rather like finding a single fossilised bone, and not knowing what sort of animal it came from until more of the pieces are uncovered. By his own special alchemy, Roger Osborne has combined portions of history, biology, architecture, palaeontology, astronomy — and a large dose of humour — and produced the fascinating story of how geology came to be. Although we would crowd up the place were we all to go there at once, *The Floating Egg* makes the reader want to go with a copy of this book as a guide — to see all the things and places that he has so brilliantly described. Richard Ellis is the author of *Monsters of the Sea, Deep Atlantic, and Imagining Atlantis*.

Climax to a labour of love

Elaine Showalter on Simone de Beauvoir's early passion

In 1947, on a trip to the United States, Simone de Beauvoir met the tough-guy Chicago novelist Nelson Algren. He courted her with a tour of Chicago including the heroin addicts and the electric chair, and took her to his cold-water flat on Wabansia Street, where they made love all night and de Beauvoir (as she revealed to her biographer Deirdre Bair) had her first "complete orgasm". She was 39; he was a year younger, looked like a bookish Sylvester Stallone, and was fiercely committed to the life of a proletarian artist. He could not abandon Chicago, she could not give up Sartre and Paris, but their passionate love affair lasted throughout the years that both were doing their most important writing, de Beauvoir completing *The Second Sex* and Algren his best novels, *The Man With the Golden Arm* and *A Walk on the Wild Side*.



Victor Gollancz, £25
ISBN 0 575 06590 7

Now Sylvie Le Bon de Beauvoir, Simone's adopted daughter, has edited de Beauvoir's side of the correspondence. The letters, which she wrote in English, provide an engrossing, intimate record of her Parisian circle. As the editor explains in her introduction, Algren "may as well have come from another planet; he needed to be taught everything, to have everything explained, to be initiated". But they are also great love letters, spontaneous, funny, inventive, wise and sad. In their private lovers' mythology de Beauvoir called herself Algren's "Wabansia wife". He was her "town big crocodile"; she was his "loving little frog". But despite its playfulness, the amphibian metaphor has a dark echo in her comment in *The Second Sex*: "Every woman in love recognises herself in Hans Andersen's little mermaid who exchanged her fish tail for a woman's legs for love, and then found herself walking on needles and burning coals." De Beauvoir's acceptance of love made her human and vulnerable to tremendous pain. To please Algren, she had a

missing tooth replaced, bought pretty dresses, offered even to cook and clean. She gave up her own affairs with other men, but encouraged him to feel free: "Don't make your life too dull, honey. I should not like to deprive you from the least thing. You can indulge gambling and women a little, there is no harm in it." She wrote him long letters about her life, feelings, and work even when she was tired and when he did not write back. "You have to love much a man to write such a letter," she notes in the middle of a magnificent description of postwar Berlin, "and in a foreign language too."

She helped to get his work translated and published in France, excused his failings, and bolstered his self-esteem. When she was attacked by American critics, she offered Algren a flattering erotic rebuttal: "I suggest you say to Bromfield, 'I know Simone de Beauvoir and when she is in bed with me, she does not look hopeless or nihilistic, but with you, I don't know what would happen.'"

Like an epistolary novel, the letters record the rise and inevitable fall of their affair. In the beginning she writes joyfully: "I love airplanes. I think, when you are at a high pitch of emotion, it is the only way of travelling which fits with your own heart." But she would spend many hours weeping in airports and on planes, as Algren could not bring himself to accept her life or modify his own. She tried to bridge the gap between passion and reality: "I want so much to make a link between my frog life in Wabansia and my working life." She tried unsuccessfully to get him to learn French, and to help to plan their infrequent holidays together so that they could combine travel and work.



De Beauvoir and Nelson Algren, with whom she had her first "complete orgasm", in 1950

Most of all, she tried to explain her family history, her feelings about Sartre, her commitment to her writing, her ideals, and her country. "I should give up friends and the sweetness of Paris to be able to remain forever with you; but I could not live just for happiness and love. I could not give up writing and working in the

only place where my writing and work may have meaning." But Algren could not tolerate being the second sex. In her 1990 biography, Deirdre Bair quotes his response: "To love a woman who does not belong to you, who puts other things and other people before you, without your taking first place is something that just isn't acceptable." He remained married and redivorced; he became more suspicious and demanding; finally, when he read de Beauvoir's representations of their relationship in her novel *The Mandarins*

(1955) and her memoir *Force of Circumstance* (1963) he was bitter and enraged. As he told a reporter the day before his death in 1981: "I've been in warehouses all over the world and the woman there always closes the door... but this woman flung the door open and called in the public and the press." Although de Beauvoir suffered needles and burning coals from Algren, she wore the ring he gave her to her grave. These wonderful letters are both a testimony to her generosity of spirit, and a compelling, revealing record of a truly free love.

Christina Koning
KALIMANTAN
Little, Brown, £14.99
ISBN 0 316 64573 7

An Englishman's jungle is his castle

C.S. Godshalk's first novel, set in Borneo during the 1850s, took ten years to write and weighs in at almost 500 pages, each line of which bears witness to the author's extensive knowledge of her subject. But any misgivings one might have that this is a dull endeavour vanish with the first sentence. *Kalimantan* is an enthralling, beautifully written book. Its charring, sharply drawn and believable, and its feeling for place and period unerring. There is never a moment's lull. It is, in short, a very good read. The story begins, as voyages of discovery do, with partial glimpses and half-truths — anecdotes recounted in letters, fragments of childhood memoirs — all of which eventually coalesce into an account of the life of Oideon Barr, the "Rajah of Sarawak". Like his

historical counterpart, James Brooke, Barr founds a colony on the north coast of Borneo where, for several decades, he and his retinue hold sway, subduing the warlike indigenous population with a mixture of stealth and brute force, and recreating, in that inhospitable climate, a version of English bourgeois life. Godshalk is fascinating on the dangers involved in such a venture, in which as many of Barr's fellow colonists are lost to disease as to the depredations of local headhunters. From her account, a picture emerges of the colonial type, epitomised by "Rajah Barr" himself, whose mania for observing trivial details of protocol is matched by

his insouciant disregard for his own safety. Even by his own men, Barr is something of an oddity, and it is not until the arrival in the colony of Amelia, Barr's young wife, that the novel acquires an emotional centre. Through Amelia's eyes, we see everything in sharp focus: the beautiful but malign landscape, with its unique flora and fauna and its diversity of people. Through her, we experience the crushing heat and humidity of the climate, and the melancholia such extremes induce. Homesick and pregnant with her first child, the "Rajah" unpacks a parcel from England, and all the sweet, familiar odours of her childhood waft into her lap. The familiar labels of Vichy and sel-

zer, the odors of camomile, gum arabic... fruit salts, Mrs Ruyden's ointment, laxatives, orange pastes, and vetiver, entered every pore". Godshalk's book is full of such moments: precise observation capturing a mood, or encapsulating a relationship. *Kalimantan* takes an obscure episode of colonial history and brings it vividly to life. It does so, not by sentimentalising its protagonists, but by making us see them as human and fallible. While the book does not gloss over the cruel and destructive acts by which men like Barr achieved their grandiose ambitions, it eschews heavy-handed moralising. By the end of the novel, Barr is shown to be as much a victim of the Imperial dream as those whose lives he has destroyed to pursue it — a pawn, rather than a player, in the "Great Game".

clothes, completely careless of convention. Dante Gabriel Rossetti recalled how she would climb mountains in breeches and wade bare-legged through streams. Bodichon said that she liked "the cracked people of the world" and as she grew older the young admired her. When Emily Davies's autocratic rule at Girton provoked rebellion among the students, it was Barbara Bodichon's tact and understanding that smoothed things over. Hirsch suggests that Bodichon's lack of personal ambition and her involvement in many causes contributed to her lack of recognition. Another factor may have been the anxiety of late 19th-century feminists to present a squeaky-clean image. Although wealthy, Bodichon was not quite respectable. Her father, Benjamin Smith, never married her mother, a Derbyshire miller's daughter called Anne Longden. Bodichon was related to Florence Nightingale but

ACCORDING to Julie, one of the central figures of Gabriel Jospovic's latest novel, "People don't talk to each other to say interesting things". That hardly bodes well for a book which consists almost entirely of dialogue. What's more, unlike similar works by Ronald Firbank or Jvy Compton-Burnett, the dialogue is not heightened but restricted to the banalities, repetitions and evasions of everyday speech. It is to Jospovic's considerable credit that he constantly disproves Julie's dictum. The novel opens at the regular Sunday gathering of a close-knit family. It is not just the lethargy of one character and the name (Nina) of another which are reminiscent of Chekhov. As private tensions erupt, the effect on the reader is of being invited as a fellow guest and then politely ignored. Left to unravel the complex web of relationships with none of the aids of conventional fiction, one feels like a cross between eavesdropper, analyst and detective. A gradual pattern emerges

Light and fluffy
Michael Arditti
NOW
By Gabriel Jospovic
Corgi, £9.95
ISBN 1 85754 367 X

youngest are Freddy's own children, Becky and Joe. The novel follows the clan over the course of a few months, during which momentous events occur in a very low-key way: one character dies and a second has a stroke; a third ends one adulterous affair only to begin another. But, as the final chapter makes clear, life and Sunday lunches go on. Now displays much charm and an admirable lightness of touch but, in the final analysis, it remains inconsequential. It suffers from the lack of any authorial perspective beyond the initial choice of material. Jospovic is adept at capturing a wealth of conversational manoeuvres, and yet, apart from Ella's gentle wheedling, the speech patterns are insubstantially distinguished. Above all, he fails to dispel the suspicion that the exercise is too easy. Dialogue, as any writer will confirm, is a far simpler option than prose. For all its virtues, *Now* remains a somewhat uneasy hybrid, lacking both the density of a novel and the discipline of a play.

Translator of dreams

Barbara Leigh Smith Bodichon is a name mentioned in passing in the histories of feminism. She is recorded campaigning for married women's property rights in 1856 and suffrage in 1867 and, in the early 1870s, establishing Girton College with Emily Davies. Pam Hirsch's biography shows that she played a much more crucial role in feminist circles than is usually implied. While she did not have Emily Davies's committee woman skills, or her singlemindedness, Bodichon was an effective networker and an inspirational leader. A woman of very broad interests, she was not just involved in feminist politics, but in other radical causes as well. She translated dreams into pragmatic propositions. For instance, the idea for a women's college came from Tennyson's poem *The Princess* and took shape as a paper Bodichon presented to the Social Science Association in 1860. Bodichon clearly had great charisma. Contemporaries remembered her as a young woman with masses of golden hair and beautiful, if eccentric



Unsung heroine: Bodichon

kept at a distance. Nonetheless, through her father, Bodichon was able to operate in a moneyed reforming Unitarian milieu. A mix of reason and romance, exploratory and restless, she refused to be confined by Victorian expectations, falling in love with a French anti-Bonapartist doctor living in Algiers, called Eugene Bodichon. Hirsch aptly compares the

biographer's craft to that of a mosaicist and, through Bodichon's life, takes us into the personal networks which sustained many middle-class reforming movements. My only criticism is that sometimes the links become so entangled that it is hard to follow the narrative. Nineteenth-century middle-class reformers managed to be related, to marry one another or to be friends to an inordinate degree. One important friendship was with Mary Ann Evans and it is Evans, as George Eliot, who has left traces of Bodichon in fictionalised form. There are echoes of the Smiths in *The Mill on the Floss* and Bessie Parkes believed that Bodichon was the model for Romola. Pam Hirsch's readable and scholarly biography not only pieces together the real-life story of a fascinating and neglected woman, it gives an insightful account of the intense world of nonconforming Victorians.

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A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices.

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BLACKPOOL family savers are available from Goldenrail this month, with dinner and B&B at two-star hotels...

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ALL-INCLUSIVE breaks at a one-star hotel at Ayia Napa, Cyprus, described as 'budget holidays'...

GREEK island cruises this summer are available from Seafarer with a week's half-board on a motor sailer...

ENGELBERG, the Swiss mountain resort 12 miles from Lake Lucerne, has apartments available from August 15...

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APARTMENTS at Les Cochons in the French Alps are available from August 22...

IBIZA for a week's self-catering from Sunday on an Air-nours holiday is among late-booking offers...

THE Rubens Market in Antwerp on August 15, when stallholders dress up in costumes to match the history of the ancient Belgian city...

DISNEYLAND Paris for the August Bank Holiday weekend is on offer from Leger, with coach travel from 300 pick-up points...



Barbados: a week there could cost you about £500

CARIBBEAN resorts are determined to attract holidaymakers all year instead of just in the winter and are offering several special deals this month...

BARBADOS for a week from August 31 is available for as little as £499 from Advantage Travel Centres...

FOR the ultimate in travel to the region, Concorde flights from Heathrow to Barbados are available on August 15...

BALI packages starting at £636 for 12 nights B&B at a beach hotel are available from Asean Explorer...

turn scheduled flights and excursions. Details: 01481-823 417.

RELIVE the dramas of Dynasty by flying non-stop to Denver for £274 return on the new British Airways service from Gatwick...

AN EPIC 11-week journey to the Baluchistan Desert in Pakistan begins from the UK on September 21 with Drago-man and passes through France, Italy and Greece...

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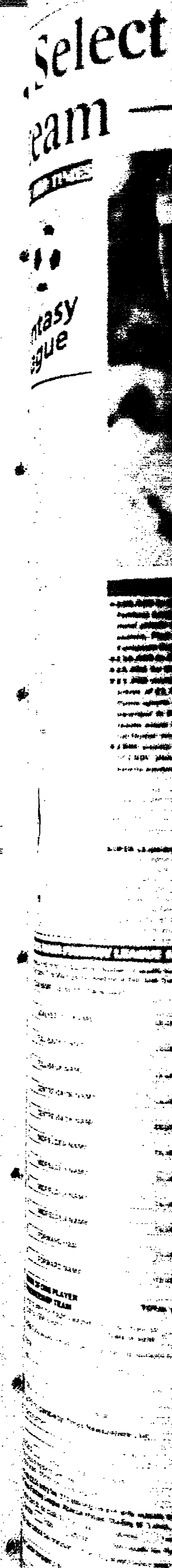
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38 SPORT

RACING: RICKETS STRESSES DAMAGE TO TOTE IF DEAL IS BLOCKED

Board urges Mandelson to sanction Coral takeover

By Richard Evans RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE Government has come under renewed pressure from the British Horseracing Board (BHB) not to scupper the Tote's chances of becoming the third force in high street betting by blocking Ladbrokes' controversial £363 million takeover of Coral.

In a letter to Peter Mandelson, the new Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Tristram Ricketts, chief executive of the BHB, has stressed the damage that would be caused to the Tote — and therefore racing — if the Government accepts the anticipated recommendation from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) to block the deal.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Bevelina (2.00 Haydock Park)

The David Evans-trained Bevelina is a progressive sort and looks well suited to her nursery debut judged on a promising effort behind Ballic Lawford at Yarmouth 16 days ago.

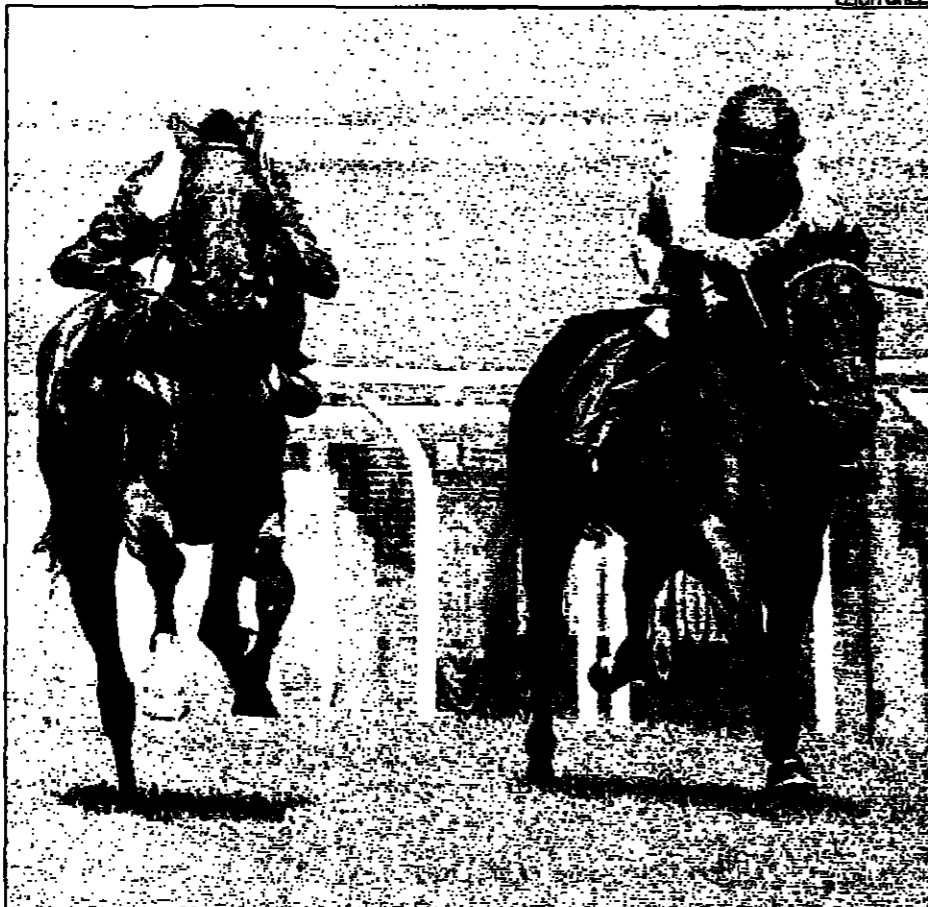
Next best: Dreaming (2.15 Folkestone)

Commission (MMC) to block the deal.

Not only would the Tote lose the opportunity to acquire a further 167 shops offered by Ladbrokes, it would also wave goodbye to the 133 shops sold conditionally by Ladbrokes in January, when the Coral deal was announced. The result would see the Tote being reduced to a bit part off-course player with just 200 high street outlets — and a reduced contribution to racing's coffers.

Ricketts is believed to have urged Mandelson to support the merger, provided that Ladbrokes agrees to dispose of a manageable number of extra shops — consistent with the Tote's finances.

Although there has been widespread concern expressed within the industry that the



Gino's Spirit, right, wins the Ampiclon LiveLine Maiden Auction Stakes at Brighton yesterday

Ladbrokes deal would give it an unacceptably high 35.7 per cent share of the off-course market, the BHB has not opposed the merger on the grounds that the Tote would benefit by acquiring extra shops.

Nonetheless, there is a growing belief in Westminster and the City that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has recommended that the Ladbrokes-Coral merger should be blocked. Its report was delivered two weeks ago.

When Ladbrokes bought Coral's 833 betting shops in January, it agreed to sell 134 to the Tote for £46.3 million in an attempt to satisfy Government

competition policy and avoid an MMC reference. The policy failed but, as *The Times* disclosed last week, Ladbrokes has offered the Tote a further 167 shops, for between £55 and £60 million, in a last-ditch attempt to save the deal.

The additional 301 shops would boost the Tote's off-course turnover by an estimated £240 million a year and gross profits by £12 million — or around £6 million after interest payments.

Ricketts' remarks about encouraging Ladbrokes to sell a manageable number of extra shops — echoing suggestions made by influential Labour and Conservative MPs — raises the possibility of the

Tote ending up with 550 or more outlets.

Although Peter Jones, the chairman of the Tote, said last month that he would be interested in buying all the Coral shops if the MMC blocked the Ladbrokes takeover, the chances of that happening are now considered remote.

If Ladbrokes was forced to sell the Coral estate it would do so via a flotation or to venture capitalists — who would almost certainly outfit the Tote.

Kieren Fallon landed a near 155-1 four-timer at Newcastle yesterday with the Haullier (100-30), Noutair (3-1), Be Gone (2-1) and Weetman's Weigh (2-1)

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Pontefract

Going: good to firm — good in places

2.20 (1m 2f 6y) 1. RIVERS SOURCE (M) 2-1 (B. Hill, 9-1); 2. MESSIAH (M) 3-1 (S. P. 20); 3. Proud Monk (M) S.J. Edwards, 50-1; ALSO RAN: 13-8 Vanadium One, 11-2 (S. P. 20); 4. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 5. B. Hill, 10-1 (S. P. 20); 6. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 7. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 8. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 9. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 10. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 11. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 12. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 13. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 14. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 15. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 16. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 17. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 18. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 19. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 20. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 21. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 22. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 23. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 24. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 25. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 26. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 27. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 28. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 29. Cuckoo (M) 10-1 (S. P. 20); 30. 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Halifax happy with new interest rate

Mark Hodgkinson visits a club that has been given a new lease of life by a period in enforced exile

"IT'S Monday, be happy," is scrawled on the notice board in the reception area at The Shay. No one at Halifax Town really needs the reminder, because, at last, there is happiness in the hillsides. After five years in the semi-professional ranks of the Vauxhall Conference, Halifax are set to reclaim their place in the Football League. As comebacks go, it seemed about as likely as a return for the Raleigh Chopper or the Osmonds.

Five years ago, Halifax made a tearful exit from the Football League after 82 years of proud but inglorious struggle in the professional game. At 5.50pm on Saturday May 8, 1993, their supporters cried into the grass when a 1-0 defeat by Hereford United combined with results else-

their rightful place as professional losers. Success for Halifax was as likely as Emma Noble spending a quiet night in with a 1,000-piece jigsaw.

Suddenly, and unexpectedly, Halifax found themselves a decent football team. George Mulhall, a shrewd, perceptive Scot, with decades of experience, was made manager. He saved them first from relegation to the Unibond League and last season orchestrated a no-fuss return to the League. They were unbeaten at home and lost only five times all season. The football was neat and sweet, the curse given a free transfer to Doncaster Rovers.

"It was very much a 'pinch me' type situation," Dave Fletcher, who covers Town for the *Halifax Evening Courier*, said. "They got off to a good start, unbeaten in their first 15 games, and Geoff Horsfield was scoring goals from all over the place. The league was more or less wrapped up by Christmas."

Mulhall, typically, refused to countenance any premature celebrations. "The fat lady hasn't sung yet," he told Fletcher repeatedly. As the wins piled up, the metaphor became more strained. "She's clearing her throat," he told a small press throng. "She's about to take the stage..."

Finally, after a win away to Kidderminster Harriers that clinched promotion, she sang the song of the Shymen. Even Mulhall was caught smiling on the photographs. Mulhall is of pink skin and twinkling eyes, stern one minute and then letting out a dry, irresistible chuckle the next. "I do not bring fear to the players, I'm not one for throwing cups around," he said. "I'm strong with my views, but I tell people in the right manner."

His secretary enters the room to inform him that a player he has been expecting has arrived. She is reluctant to utter his name, weary of a reporter's notebook. "Och, you can say his name, this lad is deaf anyway," he said, pointing in my direction.

Among the papers on his desk is a lengthy list of players available for free transfer published by the Professional Footballers' Association. It is a non-Fantasy Football squad, a collection of journeymen and



Face the future: Halifax's success has captured the imagination of some of the town's younger football followers

wanabes, jobbing footballers looking for a break. "I phoned one lad, he wanted £55,000 just to sign," Mulhall said. "I told him I was wasting money on the phone bill just talking to him."

"His eyes light up again. 'That was the price in June, I'm sure he'll be a wee bit cheaper now the season is upon us.' When Mulhall played for Aberdeen in the 1960s, he was paid just £22 a week.

On the pitch, Mulhall's strength of character was mirrored last season by Kieron O'Regan, his assistant, and two veteran warhorses. Peter Jackson held the defence together until Brian Kilcline, the former Coventry City defender with a pirate's haircut and smile, was summoned from his plumber's job as a replacement. Kilcline has now moved to Altrincham. "He did a good job for us, but I didn't think he had the legs for the Football League," Mulhall said.

There is another 'knock' at his door. It is the ubiquitous earnest, not-so-young chap with an indeterminate role

who can be found at most football clubs. He looks like he has seen a murder out in the corridor. The evidence of some badly-washed kit is thrown down in front of Mulhall. "Look at these, George," he implores. A pair of shorts are handled suspiciously. It starts to feel like an episode of *Quincy*. "It's just not good enough," Mulhall snaps. "Get on to them and tell them that we want a better job doing next time." The old boy leaves the office. The boss has spoken, a problem is solved.

Unusually, Halifax's sudden upturn in fortunes owes little to excessive spending and much to old-fashioned values such as team spirit and a good blend of players. Andy Thackeray, a veteran of 400 Football League games for various teams, signed when the Shay was at the first stage of redevelopment. "It was literally a one-sided ground with mud heaps behind each goal. Once you got talking to George, though,

you've got such a good feeling. He is a great fellow and the spirit in the dressing-room is really high."

Since the merger with the town's rugby league club, Halifax Blue Sox, the Shay has been transformed and is now a compact, modern stadium flanked by the huge Halifax Building Society offices on one side and a steep hillside on the other.

The players who formed the promotion squad have all resigned, some of them leaving good jobs that they held down while playing football on a

Wimbleton Village. Rakish and a good deal posher than your average Town supporter, he is welcome all the same. He stays over at a moorland pub and travels to the ground by bus. "I think the moors are streams, the whole environment, have a lot to do with the spirit of this club," he said.

Supporters are hopeful that Town will "do a Macclesfield" and secure a successive promotion. Confidence is high, but tinged by realism. Mulhall has a squad of just 15 players and the switch to full-time will put a strain on resources. The first ten games are crucial. There is, however, a sense in

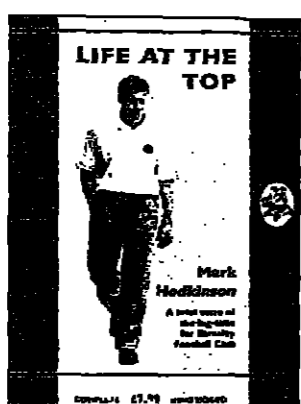
'Even last season, there remained a sense of misgiving, of paranoia'

part-time basis. The team off the pitch has also taken shape and Halifax have their own eccentric-in-waiting in the form of club president, Robert Holmes.

On alternate Saturdays, Holmes, an estate agent, makes a 500-mile round trip to the Shay from his home in

the town that Halifax and failure are no longer synonymous.

"I was talking to some fans last week," Thackeray said, and one told me that he'd seen a few kids playing on the park wearing Halifax Town shirts — and he'd never known that before."



Mark Hodgkinson's series in *The Times* about Baronsley forms the basis of his new book, *Life at the Top*

where — condemned them to relegation. They slumped to the pitch, shaking their heads in disbelief. It looked like death and Amen to the Shymen.

The Hereford goal, via a scrappy, reluctant stab of the toe, was scored by Derek Hall, a former Town player. Halifax supporters swear that they knew, just knew, that a former player would administer the last rites: it was more of their infamous bad luck. The Shay, they believe, is a place where hex marks the spot.

Even last season, when Halifax stroled to promotion, there remained a sense of misgiving, a constant paranoia that any defeat was waiting to bring them back to

CLUB-BY-CLUB GUIDE TO THE NATIONWIDE LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION

BARNET
Manager: John Still (June 1997).
IN: Damon Curtis (free from Plymouth), Claudio Davito (free from Northampton).
OUT: Danny Mills (free to Brighton).
Championship odds: 16-1.

BRIGHTON
Manager: Brian Horton (Feb 1998).
IN: Mark Walton (£25,000 from Fulham), Gary Hart (£7,000 from Barnet), Alan Thomas (free from Crawley), Danny Mills (free from Barnet).
OUT: Paul Hodgson (£110,000 to Hibernian).
Championship odds: 35-1.

BRENTFORD
Manager: Ron Noades (July 1998).
IN: Damon Freeman (free from Fulham), Darren Powell (£15,000 from Hereford), Lloyd Owusu (£25,000 from Southend), Robert Quinn and Danny Bosc (total £40,000 from Barnet), Jason Pearcey (free from Grimsby).
OUT: Carl Hutchings (£130,000 to Bristol City), Bob Taylor (£250,000 to Luton).
Championship odds: 5-1.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED
Manager: Roy McFarland (Nov 1998).
IN: Neil Muscoe (free from Wigan).
OUT: None.
Championship odds: 20-1.

CARDIFF CITY
Manager: Brian Burrow (March 1998).
IN: Richard Carpenter (£25,000 from Fulham), Mark Bonner (free from Barnet), Mike Ford (free from Oxford), Mark Delaney (free from Carmarthen), Mark Bowden (free from Blackpool), John Mitchell (free from Southend), Anthony Carrs (free to Chesterfield), Chris Beach (free to Rotherham).
Championship odds: 16-1.

CARLISLE UNITED
Manager: Michael Knighton (Sep 1997).
IN: David Brightwell (free from Northampton), Paul Hastings (free from Barnet), Scott Andy Paterson (free from Bristol City), Damon Seale (free from Stockport), Steve Finney (free from Swindon), Luis Casado (free from Blackpool).
OUT: Lee Taylor, Steve Milligan and Alan Gray (all free to Warrington), Stefan Pounoury (free to Dunfermline), Alan Smart (£150,000 to Watford), Jack Wright (£100,000 to Watford).
Championship odds: 9-1.

CHESTER CITY
Manager: Kevin Rafferty (April 1998).
IN: Neil Cutler (free from Crawley), Alex Smith (free from Huddersfield), Andy

HALIFAX TOWN
Manager: George Mulhall (Feb 1997).
IN: Mark Senior (undisclosed from Southport), Tim Carter (free from Millwall).
Championship odds: 16-1.

HARTLEPOOL UNITED
Manager: Mick Tait (Nov 1998).
IN: Paul Stephenson (free from York), OUT: Russell Budgey (free to Hednesford).
Championship odds: 33-1.

HULL CITY
Manager: Steve Haskley (July 1997).
IN: Neil Whitworth (free from Kidderminster), David Brown (free from Man Utd), David D'Auria (free from Southport), Jon French (free from Bristol Rovers), Steve Hayes (free from Sheffield United).
OUT: Duane Barry (free to Notts County), Ian Wright (free to Hereford), Paul Fevings (free to Hereford).
Championship odds: 33-1.

LEYTON ORIENT
Manager: Tommy Taylor (November 1998).
IN: Kwame Ampadu (£20,000 from Swindon).
OUT: None.
Championship odds: 12-1.

MANSFIELD TOWN
Manager: Steve Parkin (Aug 1998).
IN: Tony Lomax (undisclosed from Preston), OUT: Steve Whitlock (£40,000 to Clifton).
Championship odds: 33-1.

PETERBOROUGH UNITED
Manager: Barry Fry (May 1998).
IN: Gerard Lytle (free from Celtic), Jaye Merrin (free from Lincoln), Phil Chappell (free from Crawley), Richard Scott (free from Shrewsbury).
OUT: Wayne Bullmore (free to Southport).
Championship odds: 10-1.

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE
Manager: Kevin Hodges (July 1998).
IN: Chris Hargreaves (free from Hereford), Paul Gibbs (free from Torquay), Steve McCall (free from Torquay as assistant manager).
OUT: Carlo Corazzan (free to Northampton), Mark Saunders (free to Gillingham), Paul Williams (free to Gillingham), Chris Baly (free to Notts County), Richard Logan (free to Southport), Darren Cune (free to Barnet).
Championship odds: 25-1.

ROCHDALE
Manager: Graham Barrow (May 1998).
IN: Paul Carson (free from Blackpool), Alan Hargrove (free from Rotherham).
OUT: None.
Championship odds: 40-1.

ROTHERHAM UNITED
Manager: Ronnie Moore (May 1997).
IN: Chris Beach (free from Cardiff), Mike Potts (free from Sunderland).
OUT:

SCARBOROUGH
Manager: Mick Wadsworth (June 1998).
IN: Paddy Ahern (free from York), Wayne Baber (free from Peterborough), Jamie Hoyland (free from Barnet), Ian Maitland (free from Newcastle), Alex Kirkby (free from Reon L'Etape), Jason Lydiate (free from Blackpool).
OUT: Gary Bennett (£20,000 to Darlington), Ian Smith (free to Doncaster as manager), Paul Adkin (free to Gillingham).
Championship odds: 25-1.

SOUTHEND UNITED
Manager: Alvin Martin (Feb 1997).
IN: Rob Newman (free from Norwich), Alex Burns (free from Hereford), Mark Beard (free from Sheffield United), Mick Gooding (free agent), Simon Livitt (free from West Ham), Mark Bennett (free from Ipswich).
OUT: Andy Thompson (free to Oxford), Jeron Bovea (free to Japan), Simon Royce (free to Chertsey), Andy Rammell (free to Walsall).
Championship odds: 14-1.

SOUTHEND UNITED
Manager: John Hollins (July 1998).
IN: Matt Thomas (free from Fulham).
OUT: Kwame Ampadu (£20,000 to Darlington), John Williams (free to Cardiff).
Championship odds: 25-1.

TORQUAY UNITED
Manager: Wes Saunders (July 1998).
IN: Brian McGarry (free from Hereford), Robbie Henshaw (£25,000 from Fulham).
OUT: Rodney Jack (£250,000 to Crawley), Paul Gibbs (free to Plymouth), Steve Mitchell (free to Plymouth as assistant manager).
Championship odds: 16-1.

WALSLEY
Manager: Steve Haskley (July 1997).
IN: Neil Whitworth (free from Kidderminster), David Brown (free from Man Utd), David D'Auria (free from Southport), Jon French (free from Bristol Rovers), Steve Hayes (free from Sheffield United).
OUT: Duane Barry (free to Notts County), Ian Wright (free to Hereford), Paul Fevings (free to Hereford).
Championship odds: 33-1.

WALSLEY
Manager: Steve Haskley (July 1997).
IN: Neil Whitworth (free from Kidderminster), David Brown (free from Man Utd), David D'Auria (free from Southport), Jon French (free from Bristol Rovers), Steve Hayes (free from Sheffield United).
OUT: Duane Barry (free to Notts County), Ian Wright (free to Hereford), Paul Fevings (free to Hereford).
Championship odds: 33-1.

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Championship odds: 33-1.

Drug cheats in range of long arm of the law

Trotting merrily along behind the dope-riding shambles that was the Tour de France this year comes our old friend, the sprinter, Ben Johnson.



Look, he says triumphantly, I told you so. I'm not the only sportsman who was on drugs. They were all at it. Johnson is about to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the day that he became the villain in the biggest drug scandal to hit sport. He won the 1988 Olympic 100 metres title in 4.79sec — a time that has still not been matched by any other human — but he then tested positive for drugs and was stripped of his title.

Ten years on and with sport staggering around in the after-shocks of the Tour de France scandal, Johnson is still plecting about how he was picked on.

"Now they can't hide from the truth," he said. "Now the world has seen that no sport is fair, that there is no level playing field, that the cyclists are at it, Dennis Mitchell and Randy Barnes, the East Germans, the Chinese, everybody is at it."

The entry of police into this area of sport is intriguing. As the Tour de France discovered, sport might do well to stop relying on the policeman. French police and customs officers stepped in where the sporting authorities have not dared to tread or test and proved that good, old-fashioned policing methods can work. They found that where fancy urine-sampling often fails, straightforward suitcase sampling can succeed.

In Australia at the time of the world swimming championships in Perth in January, customs officers scored a similar success when they uncovered human growth hormone and other substances being brought in by the Chinese swimming squad.

Too many sporting authorities have been cowed into being too scared to enforce their own rules. They cannot afford the lawsuits, they cannot stomach the drawn-out battles and the painful publicity. Rather than ignore their rules, they should change them — not to sanction the taking of drugs, but to make their detection more likely and punishment both swift and effective.

The powerful men who rule sport have done nothing to dispel the doubts. Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee, even suggested that some performance-enhancing drugs might be acceptable if they did not damage health.

The advocates of performance-enhancing drugs say that, because they appear to be virtually uncontrollable, the only thing to do is to let doctors administer them and for there to be a pharmaceutical free-for-all. As long as the medicines are around, they argue, there should be no threat to the well-being of the competitors.

They should try telling that to the family of Heidi Kreiger, who, competing for the former East Germany, became the European women's shot champion. She claims that the pills given to her by her doctor and her coach eventually turned her into a man. Now that the drugs have done their worst, she goes by the name of Andreas.

Those who say leave it to the doctors should remember that, for years, communist East Germany ran the biggest medically-controlled

ing of drugs, but to make their detection more likely and punishment both swift and effective. They should take another leaf from the policeman's notebook and try zero tolerance and on-the-spot penalties. Drug tests should be routine and not random. Blood tests for all competitors in high-level events might cost a lot, but sport is wallowing in money.

With sophisticated equipment, the feedback would be rapid and, where a competitor is found to have tested positive for a banned substance, there need be no long-term ban, no never-ending legal inquiry. The officials can simply impose a time or distance penalty on the competitor severe enough to penalise them and act as a deterrent to others.

Statistics could have endless hours of fun calculating the penalties, but how about half a second in the 100 metres and half a minute in the 10,000 metres for a start? Such a system would not be perfect, but it might go a long way towards restoring credibility and cutting out routine cheating.

It may seem harsh that sport should have to rely on instant penalties and the policeman's, rather than the referee's, whistle, but the sad truth is that too many cheats have been breaking the laws of sport for far too long.

GOLF: NICHOLAS FORCED OUT OF TOURNAMENT AT GLENEAGLES BY ILLNESS

Solheim Cup candidates on trial

THIS is the start of three important weeks for women's professional golf in Europe. Competitors in the McDonald's WPGA Championship of Europe tee off on the King's course at Gleneagles this morning and many of them will then move down to Lancashire for the Weetabix Women's British Open, which begins at Royal Lytham and St Anne's next Thursday. The whole circuit then travels to Sweden for the Compaq Open at Barseback, near Malmö, at the end of which the Solheim Cup team to play the United States in Ohio next month will be announced.

Alison Nicholas, the 1997 US Open champion, has withdrawn from the event at Gleneagles citing continued problems with the viral pneumonia that has affected her for much of this season. Her mother and her caddy both encouraged her not to travel but to concentrate on recovering properly.

Nicholas, the winner of the 1997 order of merit, is sure of a place in the Solheim Cup team. The leading seven in the

standings on August 23 will win automatic selection and Pia Nilsson, the captain, will pick the remaining five players.

Someone like Kathryn Marshall, who was a member of the team beaten at St Pierre in 1996, needs to play very well for the next three weeks to stand a chance of getting in and she is beginning to fret about her chances. "This is make or break for me," Marshall said yesterday. "This year has been such a disappointment. I must get some good results in the next few weeks."

After an outstanding performance in the US Open, where she finished seventh, Mhairi McKay would have been a strong candidate to be selected, for she has won \$68,000 (around £43,000) in the United States. However, McKay, 33, said yesterday that, even if chosen, she would decline because she is to be a bridesmaid at her sister's wedding on September 18. "I can't let the family down," McKay said.

RUGBY UNION: FRENCH DECISION SCUPPERS PLANS BY PREMIERSHIP CLUBS

Europe door shuts on England

THE decision of the leading French clubs — with the exception of Toulouse, the 1996 winners — to support the European Rugby Cup (ERC) in the new season should clarify England's domestic situation. First division fixtures in the Allied Dunbar Premiership for the first five weeks of the season were released yesterday and there seems to be little logic in holding up the remainder.

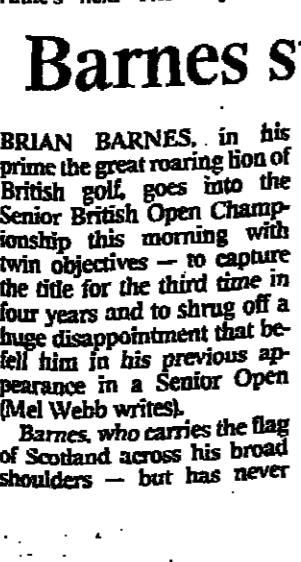
The English clubs, who withdrew from Europe in January, are in danger of making too many U-turns for comfort. Having already increased the size of the leagues to 14, specifically to allow for the absence of European games, they have been trying to discover ways of accommodating their allies in France and Wales by changing the fabric of the Premiership, with precious little time in which to do so.

Brian Baister, the chairman of the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) management board, met Bernard Lapasset, the president of the French federation, in Toulouse on Tuesday and was able to clarify France's situation: "They recognise they have a year to go with ERC Limited and they are going to honour that, Baister said. "We have pleaded with our clubs to reduce the numbers in their league and stay in Europe, but they have disagreed." Lapasset has warned that if England are

not restored for the 1999-2000 season, there will not be another European Cup.

An ERC board meeting in Dublin tomorrow should be able to confirm a European timetable without English participation, but it remains to be seen whether Heineken, the sponsor for the first three years of the competition, will agree new terms.

Bristol may yet start the new season, John Burke, the chief executive of Bristol and West plc — the club's main sponsor — has hopes of an agreement with Bristol City to play at Ashton Gate; another business group seeks to stay at the Memorial Ground in a sharing scheme with Bristol Rovers.



Gabbiani: Darlington deal

FIXTURES

SEPTEMBER 5: Bath v Wasps, Gloucester v London Irish, Leicester v Harlequins, London Scottish v Sale, Richmond v Newcastle Saracens v Northampton

SEPTEMBER 12: London Scottish v Leicester, Newcastle v Bath, Northampton v Harlequins, Richmond v Gloucester, Sale v Bedford, Wigan Harlequins v London Irish

SEPTEMBER 19: Bath v Richmond, Bedford v London Scottish, Gloucester v West Hartlepool, Leicester v Northampton

SEPTEMBER 26: Bath v Gloucester, Bedford v Leicester, London Scottish v Saracens, Newcastle v London Irish, Sale v Harlequins, Wasps v West Hartlepool

OCTOBER 3: Gloucester v Wasps, Harlequins v London Scottish, London Irish v Bedford, Northampton v Sale, Saracens v Bedford, West Hartlepool v Newcastle

TEAMtalk

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CHELSEA	168 808	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	168 814
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FULHAM	168 855	STOKE CITY	168 830
LEEDS UNITED	168 803	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	168 807
LEICESTER CITY	168 832	WATFORD	168 852
LIVERPOOL	168 804	W.B.A.	168 843
MANCHESTER CITY	168 802	WEST HAM	168 812
MANCHESTER UNITED	168 801	WOLVERHAMPTON W.	168 824

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SPORT IN BRIEF

No quarter shown by Beales and Price

BOWLS: Norma Beales and Mary Price, the 1995 champions, from Burnham, Buckinghamshire, will be hoping to secure a place in the quarter-finals of the English Women's Bowling Association national pairs championship at Royal Leamington Spa this morning.

They swept through their opening rounds yesterday, 29-11 against Jean Fredericks and Pat Capper, of the Devonshire Road club, Salisbury, and 24-13 against Vera Reynolds and Betty Bourne, of Nailsworth.

Among the strong pairs left in the competition are Audrey Mainwaring and Irene Molyneux, from Oxfordshire, and Kayvon and Jean Baker, from Derbyshire, and Liz Tunn and Brenda Brown, from Essex.

MOTOR RACING: Rubens Barrichello may leave the Stewart Formula One team at the end of this season, one year before his contract expires, and race for Williams in 1999. "I have talked with Frank Williams about next season," he said.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Stuart Flowers, the York forward, has been suspended for three months after failing a drugs test. The 27-year-old pleaded guilty at a Rugby Football League disciplinary hearing for taking a substance containing ephedrine, a banned stimulant. It is thought that Flowers took a substance containing ephedrine to combat asthma.

RUGBY UNION: New Zealand have omitted Michael Jones, the flanker, from a 26-man squad named yesterday for their international against South Africa in Durban on August 15.

HOCKEY: A superb 44th-minute shot from the edge of the circle by Lucilla Wright helped England to defeat Canada 2-1 in the second international between the two sides at Milton Keynes yesterday.

SQUASH: Four British players have reached the last 16 of the world junior men's championship in the United States. Nick Matthews led the way with a 9-0, 9-1 defeat of Gaurav Juneja, of India.

ATHLETICS: BRITON PRODUCES CREDIBLE RUN AGAINST STRONG AMERICAN FIELD

Cleared Wariso finds his feet

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

LESS than five hours after being cleared by a drugs appeal panel to compete in the Commonwealth Games, Solomon Wariso confronted his other demon last night. To banish it, he needed to prove that he was worthy of the 400 metres place at the European championships that most of Britain thought should have gone to Roger Black.

The evening hardly started perfectly for Wariso as he prepared to line up in the Stockholm grand prix against three of the best one-lap runners from the United States this season. He lost a shoe and had to borrow a pair of spikes from Davidson Ezinwa, the Nigerian sprinter.

Furthermore, Wariso was unhappy with the lane draw. He was allocated lane two while the Americans enjoyed the less tight bends outside him. However, despite the pressure on him to perform, he carried it adequately.

Wariso split the Americans, finishing third in a respectable, if unconvincing, time. Tyrone Washington won in 44.78sec, with Alvin Harrison second in 45.09. Wariso, having come off the final bend in fourth place, passed Jerome Young down the final straight to record 45.23.

Decent though his time was, it was some way outside the 44.68sec that he recorded in the AAA championships, where he narrowly beat Black to earn selection for the European championships. Black had said that if Wariso ran 44.5, he would have justified his selection, albeit prematurely.

Young is a scalp worth having. Not only does he hold the fastest time of the year, he was also a member of the United States team that set a 4X400 metres world record two weeks ago. Washington was in that quartet, too.

Earlier, Wariso had learnt that his Commonwealth Games life ban had been lifted, leaving him eligible to take up his place in the England team bound for Kuala Lumpur next month. An appeal panel for the Commonwealth Games Council for England judged that his offence had been minor.

Wariso failed a drugs test in 1994 and, under England and Great Britain policy, was banned for life from the Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games. However, Wariso appealed successfully in 1996 to the British Olympic Association, which lifted his Olympic ban.

He had been withdrawn from the 200 metres at the European championships in Helsinki in August 1994 after a lengthy delay in producing the result of a test at the grand prix meeting in Gaineshead five weeks earlier. A month later, a British Athletic Federation (BAF) hearing confirmed his suspension for three months, the standard period for a stimulant offence.

Wariso explained at the time that he had taken the herbal remedy tablets, Up Your Gas, and that the



Wariso proved he can take the pressure of replacing Black despite his early problems

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ROWING: EDWARDS-MOSS ANSWERS EMERGENCY CALL TO COMPETE IN WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Romero shrugs off injury with second place

A RECURRENCE of a back injury threatened to prevent Rebecca Romero from competing in the preliminary heats of the coxless pairs event at the world junior championships, which started here yesterday. However, she was given the go-ahead to compete and, with Katherine Stewart, finished second to Denmark.

With just one crew to qualify directly for the final, Romero and Stewart eased back to paddle in behind the Danes and well ahead of the United States. They will compete

in the repechage today, as will the coxless four and double scull, who both finished third in their heats. In the men's events, James di Luzio, a gold medal-winner in the double sculls last year in Belgium, came second in his singles heat behind Matthias Weiss, from Germany, but there was drama for the British eights in the last race of the day. One member of the crew was forced to withdraw, so Tom Edwards-Moss,

from Eton College, was flown over and arrived at the course just one hour before the crew were due to compete. They started well and were leading at the half-way point, but Romania then took the lead and the Britons were beaten to second place by Poland.

RESULTS: Preliminary heats involving British crews: Heat 1: 1, Germany 5:43.29; 2, Romania 5:43.59; 3, South Africa 5:45.46; 4, Poland 5:48.11; 5, Great Britain 5:50.20. Coxless pairs: Heat 1: 1, Romania 7:14.11; 2, Belgium 7:14.71; 3, Switzerland 7:16.02; 4, Great Britain 7:16.82; 5, Croatia 6:34.53; 6, Russia 6:36.50. Coxless pairs: Heat 1: 1, Germany 7:18.82; 2, Italy 7:19.82; 3, Russia 7:21.37; 4, Belgium 7:21.45; 5, Romania 7:24.70; 6, Argentina 7:24.42; 7, Great Britain 7:21.70; 8, United States 7:37.52. Single scull: Heat 1: 1, Romania 7:08.22; 2, Germany 7:08.22; 3, Czech Republic 7:17.18; 4, United States 7:15.52; 5, Switzerland 7:15.43; 6, Japan 7:15.83; 7, Germany 7:15.83; 8, Denmark 7:18.04; Heat 2: 1, Australia 7:08.23; 2, Romania 7:08.23; 3, France 7:08.23; 4, Romania 7:08.23; 5, Germany 6:24.02; 6, United States 7:00.81; 7, Great Britain 7:08.78; Heat 3: 1, China 6:48.11 (championship); 2, Romania 6:51.17; 3, Romania 6:51.17; 4, Romania 6:51.17; 5, Romania 6:51.17; 6, Romania 6:51.17; 7, Romania 6:51.17; 8, Romania 6:51.17; 9, Romania 6:51.17; 10, Romania 6:51.17; 11, Romania 6:51.17; 12, Romania 6:51.17; 13, Romania 6:51.17; 14, Romania 6:51.17; 15, Romania 6:51.17; 16, Romania 6:51.17; 17, Romania 6:51.17; 18, Romania 6:51.17; 19, Romania 6:51.17; 20, Romania 6:51.17; 21, Romania 6:51.17; 22, Romania 6:51.17; 23, Romania 6:51.17; 24, Romania 6:51.17; 25, Romania 6:51.17; 26, Romania 6:51.17; 27, Romania 6:51.17; 28, Romania 6:51.17; 29, Romania 6:51.17; 30, Romania 6:51.17; 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ra finds cure for his ills idyllic Lord

CRICKET

Ormond performs to perfection in role of deputy

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

LEICESTER (first day of four; Somerset won toss): Leicestershire, with three wickets in hand, are 164 runs ahead of Somerset

AS A brash statement of intent, Leicestershire could have made more pertinent than bowling out Somerset for 74, only to lose by an innings to Leicestershire, who then won the title.

This time Ormond exploited the slope and cross-field breeze to make the ball swing and bounce, which Caddick also achieved later as he battled almost single-handed, to restrain Leicestershire.

Their innings of 284 overs was the shortest in the competition this summer, five balls fewer than Gloucestershire's against Glamorgan at Bristol three months ago in which they were dismissed for 82.

The domino effect that afflicted Somerset involved all ten wickets falling for 54 runs — after an opening partnership of 20 — in 17 overs, spanning 73 minutes. The innings' duration was three minutes under two hours, leaving Somerset to contem-

plate fielding in the heat of the day, which winning the toss and opting to bat had been partly designed to avoid.

Bowler, the Somerset captain, must have had a sense of déjà vu. In the corresponding game at Grace Road two years ago, he won the toss, batted and Somerset were bowled out for 83, only to lose by an innings to Leicestershire, who then won the title.

With those ailments cured, Ormond took five or more wickets for the second time in four championship innings this season. His 12 first-class wickets so far have cost just over ten runs each.

His victims included the out-of-touch Simmons, leading Leicestershire in the absence of Lewis, who has a back injury. Sutcliffe had been held low at first slip by Harden and Caddick gathered momentum by having Smith leg-before, pushing forward. Rose briefly interrupted Caddick's sequence of wickets but a triumphant sixth followed in the evening sunshine.



Ormond: six for 33

The Somerset batting saga meant that they repented, not exactly at their leisure, in the field. Their strokeplay was as if from memory as six batsmen were taken at or close to the wicket. Excellence came as standard in Leicestershire's catching, which featured a lunging two-handed effort by Habib to his right to oust Bowler, and Smith holding three catches in the gully. Bowler top-scored with 17, barely an item for his scrapbook, as his cullow team pushed, prodded and perished.

Somerset lacked Mustaq Ahmed, on compassionate leave in Pakistan, Bulbeck and Turner but their batting bordered on the abject as a pitch with some pace. The indefatigable Caddick exploited it, his first ball, a sharp lifter off a length to Wells being as menacing as anything that Ormond and the equally worthy Wells had delivered.

Alas, poor Caddick. After taking the first four wickets, he had Habib dropped by Bowler at second slip before knocking out his off stump. He bowled 27 overs, four of them maidens spanning two spells.



Brittin is in commanding form on the way to her century at Guildford yesterday

Great put back in Brittin

By SARAH POTTER

GUILDFORD (first day of four; England won toss): England have scored 255 for three wickets against Australia

THE ground at Guildford was under water on Monday, but yesterday, as high summer arrived in Surrey, England produced some dazzling cricket to outshine Australia in the opening day of the first Test.

The brightest performance came from Jan Brittin. At 39, she is the oldest player in the England team and yesterday she closed in on a world record held by Rachael Heyhoe Flint since 1979. At the start of her innings, Brittin needed 110 to

find the gaps in scoring her maiden Test fifty in her second innings. Brittin was assured in her deft cuts and sweeps and exemplary in defence.

Cathryn Fitzpatrick bowled a fast and hostile spell, but saw Brittin dropped by the normally reliable Belinda Clark at slip when she had made only ten. A bouncer, described by Edwards as the fastest ball she has seen a woman bowl, hit Brittin's helmet and sped for four leg byes. It strengthened her resolve and she reached her hundred, in 365 balls, by striking a helmet that was lying behind the wicketkeeper.

Her triumph was all the sweeter since a fractured finger, sustained in the field during the third one-day international at Hove, threatened an anticlimactic end to a distinguished career. Some people even questioned Brittin's appetite to come back from her third serious injury in as many seasons.

She answered all the doubters yesterday. Although Charlotte Edwards was quicker to

Law takes matters into own hands

By RUPERT COX

CHELMSFORD (first day of four; Kent won toss): Kent have scored 255 for three wickets against Hampshire

ALTHOUGH he did not bat nor bowl yesterday, Paul Grayson, captaining Essex for the first time in a Britannic Assurance county championship match, will have experienced a full range of emotions. Having lost the toss, in glorious batting conditions, he saw Glamorgan cruise to 172 for two and then collapse to 230 for nine before the last-wicket pair of Andrew Davies and Owen Parkin eked out 58 in 23 overs.

On a fluctuating day, Grayson's mood will have been tempered as Essex reached the close with Flanagan the sole victim, but he will, doubtless, be glad to see the return of Paul Pritchard, the club captain, after injury.

The morning session was illuminated by a jaunty run-a-ball innings from Wayne Law. In his third championship match and his first since he struck 131 against Lancashire

at Colwyn Bay, Law beguiled the crowd with an audacious range of strokes. Only the mode of his dismissal, charging at Peter Such, detracted from the entertainment.

At first, it appeared to be only a blip in the champions' surge as Adrian Dale and Matthew Maynard carried them to lunch at 162 for two, but, perhaps ironically, the departure of Iott, adding to the long Essex casualty list, was followed by the loss of seven wickets for 58 in 29 overs. Poor shot selection and the perseverance of Such undermined the Glamorgan middle order and, once Dale had perished to Neil Williams for 73, the visiting team's grip had been all but loosened.

Such should be used to bowling long spells, having bowled 86 overs in one innings at Colchester last summer, and here he bowled unchanged, from the River End, from 11.55am until he collected his fifth wicket at 5.50pm. As he wicketed his way through the batting, Williams captured a season's best of four for 42.

Headley directs the last stand

By IVO TENNANT

CANTERBURY (first day of four; Kent won toss): Kent have scored 291 against Hampshire

AS A tally of ten batting bonus points hitherto this season would suggest, Kent's cricket has been nothing if not hazardous. So it was in excellent conditions on the opening day of Canterbury Week, when, in spite of there being no structure to their innings, they finished with a total of 391. Dean Headley and Min Patel put on 123 for the last wicket.

Numerous individuals contributed to the Kent total, but nobody more so than Headley, who made 81, his highest score for the county. His partnership with Patel was a record for Kent's last wicket against Hampshire.

Kent bat just about all the way down the order. Their innings began with 12 wickets in the first over, bowled by McLean, continued with Fulton making his seventh half-century of the season. Hooper striking six fours before getting himself out and Fleming

hitting a characteristically entertaining 51. Extraordinarily, Hampshire conceded more extras, 54, than they ever have before.

Even so, Kent had reached only 268 for nine when Headley was joined by Patel, who is a better batsman than say, Derek Underwood. Both played sensibly, collecting runs from anything wide of the stumps. The Hampshire bowling throughout the day was steady, nothing more. Morris, ponytail and all, took four wickets, but nobody could restrict the tailenders in sapping heat.

Patel, indeed, was treating McLean like a net bowler by the close. In the penultimate over, he reached the highest score of his career, his half-century coming off 67 balls with seven fours.

Headley was caught behind off James in the final over, having struck eight fours in his 81 from 165 balls. It was a terrific partnership, but did show up some of the specialist batsmen who had gone before.

Bevan sets a fine example to follow

By JACK BAILEY

EASTBOURNE (first day of four; Sussex won toss): Sussex have scored 335 for seven wickets

CLEAR light under blue skies, an easy-paced pitch, the lovely setting of the Saffrons and a clever captain who won the toss: there was little more that Sussex could have asked for, especially against a Durham team lacking the services of Melvyn Betts with Achilles tendon problems and, like Sussex themselves, without a win in their past five games.

Yet until Michael Bevan found his stride, Sussex fell just short of realising the potential offered by the conditions. Wasim Khan's 47-run top for 91 portrayed concentration without achieving dominance or as much contact with the middle of the bat as he would have liked. Adams buccannered without plundering the full treasure trove. Rajesh Rao looked good until he ran himself out going for a fourth run for the benefit of Bevan.

Although Bevan, too, failed

to make a century, he displayed a sureness of touch and a range of strokes that eluded the others. Adams' half-century from 83 balls with a six and six fours, contained a measure of playing and missing and ended unsatisfactorily with a top-edged walt that saw the ball steeply high for Speight to get underneath it.

The bowler was Harmison, 19, who plugged away all day at lively pace, extracting what little bounce there was from this pitch, but less effective without the skidding speed of Betts at the other end. The rest of the Durham attack stuck well to a difficult task and the fielding rarely flagged but, coming in halfway through the day with Sussex on 166 for three and Adams out, Bevan rendered much of their good work redundant.

His 95 came from only 107 balls and, by the time he was bowled by Wood he had been credited with a six and 13 fours, delighted the crowd for 24 hours and had seen Sussex past 300.

Sri Lankans take things easy

LAKENHAM (the Sri Lankans won the toss): The Sri Lankans beat the ECB XI by eight wickets

BY RESTING six players likely to feature in the international triangular tournament against England and South Africa later this month, the Sri Lankans gave every indication that a limited-overs match against an England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) XI was not No 1 on their list of priorities yesterday.

It was a feeling reinforced when Aravinda de Silva, the acting captain, resisted the temptation on winning the

to bat first and make hay against a side consisting of Minor Counties and first-class counties' second XI players. Even so, disinterested or not, the ECB XI were brushed aside by eight wickets with 21.5 overs to spare.

A healthy crowd had gathered for this concluding match in the Lakenham festival, but they were treated to an ECB XI innings that was anything but festive. Batsmen failed to come to terms with a pitch taking spin and although Nick Graywood, of Devon, briefly struck out against the seam-

ers, there was precious little support, other than 35 from Steve Foster.

With victory in their sights from the outset — and the prospect of an early conclusion — the Sri Lankan batsmen were even less likely to hold back than usual. Russell Arnold produced a cameo 31 that set the tone before de Silva and Hashan Tilakaratne concluded the match in a blaze of boundaries, the final blow carrying de Silva to his fifty from 49 balls. With his three wickets for 12 runs earlier, there was no other contender for the man-of-the-match award.

Franks provides the lifeline

By JOHN THICKESSE

KIDDERMINSTER (first day of four; Nottinghamshire won toss): Worcestershire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 41 runs behind Nottinghamshire

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S 164 all out might have been as many as 150 runs below par in beautiful weather for batting at Kidderminster. But they were thrown a lifeline by Paul Franks, 19, in an accurate new-ball spell that pushed Worcestershire towards unexpected collapse themselves.

Franks took only two wickets. But with another by Kevin Evans, they reduced the home

side to 22 for three, and evened up a game Worcestershire had looked certain to control an hour earlier.

Tom Moody won back the initiative, however. Having taken 20 uncomfortable minutes to get off the mark, he off-drove commandingly as Nottinghamshire began to flag in a 46-over final session.

In contrast to Worcestershire, there was no excuse for Nottinghamshire's batting. The only factor in the bowlers' favour was a pitch with plenty of bounce, of which Newport made typically good use with-

out any luck. Unaccountably, though, Afzal, the No 3, was the only Nottinghamshire batsman not to contribute to his dismissal, edging to second slip, Galian, Welton and Johnson all carved loose balls to cover. Tolley was bowled without offering a stroke and Franks was caught hooking.

Franks was a different proposition from the Worcester bowlers. He attacked the off-stump with in-swinging and inward movement off the pitch, bowling a tight enough line to demand three slips and gully in addition to short leg.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Tour match ECB XI v Sri Lankans LAKENHAM (the Sri Lankans won toss): The Sri Lankans beat ECB XI by eight wickets

ECB XI: N Gaywood c Chandana b Chandana 19; M Roberts c and b Chandana 14; S Foster c and b Chandana 12; P Johnson c and b Chandana 10; D Clarke c and b Chandana 10; R Hasal c and b Chandana 10; S Aueron not out 14; J Fielding c and b Chandana 10; J Jones c and b Chandana 10; K Arnold c Chandana 10; A Richardson not out 5; Extras (lb 2, nb 4, fb 8) 14; Total (9 wickets, 50 overs) 141

SRI LANKANS: M S Anapathu c and b Foster 26; P A de Silva c and b Foster 23; P A de Silva c and b Foster 23; H P Thero c and b Foster 20; S D Silva c and b Foster 17; Total (12 wickets, 38.1 overs) 144

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP Essex v Glamorgan CHELMSFORD (first day of four; Glamorgan won toss): Essex, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 265 runs behind Glamorgan

GLAMORGAN: First Innings: S P James c and b Williams 11; W J Lewis b Williams 11; M P Maynard c and b Williams 10; P A Dale c and b Williams 10; A Dale c and b Williams 10; S D Thomas c and b Williams 10; D A Clarke c and b Williams 10; A P Davies c and b Williams 10; Extras (lb 2, nb 9, w 4, fb 8) 23; Total (9 wickets, 28.4 overs) 288

ESSEX: First Innings: D P Fulton b and b Morris 54; E T Smith c and b Morris 49; C J Hooper c and b Morris 36; W J Hooper c and b Morris 26; M A Easton c and b Morris 26; M V Fleming c and b Morris 26; S A Marsh c and b Morris 26; N W Headley c and b Morris 26; M J McCague c and b Morris 26; M J Patel not out 26; Extras (lb 5, nb 10, w 14, fb 24) 54; Total (10 wickets, 30.1 overs) 391

Worcestershire v Somerset LEICESTER (first day of four; Somerset won toss): Leicestershire, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 164 runs ahead of Somerset

SOMERSET: First Innings: P D Bowler c and b Ormond 17; P C L Hooper c and b Ormond 16; M E Treaclock c and b Ormond 16; K A Parsons c and b Ormond 16; M Burns c and b Ormond 16; A R P Pearson c and b Ormond 16; T L Sutton c and b Ormond 16; P S Jones not out 16; Extras (lb 2, nb 2) 4; Total (22.4 overs) 284

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings: V J Wells c and b Caddick 5; D L Mackay not out 5; J Scaife c and b Caddick 5; B F Smith b Caddick 5; P V Saravanan c Treaclock b Caddick 5; A Hulse c and b Caddick 5; P A Nixon c Burns b Rose 5; D J Miles c and b Caddick 5; C D Crowe not out 5; Extras (lb 6, nb 10) 16; Total (7 wickets, 73 overs) 288

LANCASHIRE v Gloucestershire OLD TRAFFORD (first day of four; Lancashire won toss): Lancashire have scored 257 for three wickets against Gloucestershire

LANCASHIRE: First Innings: P C McKeegan c and b Harrop 51; J P Coney c and b Harrop 43; N H Farrant c and b Harrop 36; G D Hill c and b Harrop 36; W K Hoeg c and b Harrop 26; M Aamir c and b Harrop 26; G Chappell not out 6; Extras (lb 3, nb 6) 9; Total (13 wickets, 107 overs) 288

GLoucestershire: First Innings: P C McKeegan c and b Harrop 51; J P Coney c and b Harrop 43; N H Farrant c and b Harrop 36; G D Hill c and b Harrop 36; W K Hoeg c and b Harrop 26; M Aamir c and b Harrop 26; G Chappell not out 6; Extras (lb 3, nb 6) 9; Total (13 wickets, 107 overs) 288

Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (first day of four; Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 41 runs behind Worcestershire

Worcestershire: First Innings: W P C Weston c Archer b Franks 4; M Bilton c and b Franks 4; V S Sankar c and b Franks 4; T M Moody not out 4; D A Leach c and b Franks 4; Extras (lb 1, nb 20) 26; Total (4 wickets, 46 overs) 718

Nottinghamshire: First Innings: J Scaife c and b Franks 4; M Bilton c and b Franks 4; V S Sankar c and b Franks 4; T M Moody not out 4; D A Leach c and b Franks 4; Extras (lb 1, nb 20) 26; Total (4 wickets, 46 overs) 718

England v Australia GUILDFORD (first day of four; England won toss): England have scored 255 for three wickets against Australia

ENGLAND WOMEN'S: First Innings: C Edwards c and b Calver 53; B Brittin not out 53; M A Easton c and b Calver 26; V S Sankar c and b Calver 26; T M Moody not out 26; Extras (lb 5, nb 12, w 3, nb 1) 26; Total (3 wickets) 286

First Women's Test match England v Australia GUILDFORD (first day of four; England won toss): England have scored 257 for three wickets against Australia

ENGLAND WOMEN'S: First Innings: C Edwards c and b Calver 53; B Brittin not out 53; M A Easton c and b Calver 26; V S Sankar c and b Calver 26; T M Moody not out 26; Extras (lb 5, nb 12, w 3, nb 1) 26; Total (3 wickets) 286

Australia Women's: First Innings: B Clark, K Rolton, J Broadbent, B Calver, A Foley, C Stewart, M James, D Knight, D Magno, C Mason, J Preece

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سید: من لایمیل

From critical to terminal in just 45 seconds

Here is Martin Amis, speaking in the latest *Paris Review*. "I feel generally resentful of younger writers. Dislike and resentment of younger writers is something fairly universal among writers."

Later he notes: "Much modern prose is praised for its terseness, its scrupulous avoidance of curlicue, et cetera. But I don't think these writers are being terse out of choice. I think they are being terse because it's the only way they can write." These are two of Amis's more pointed observations about fellow novelists. They simply underline what we already know: that the spikiest, most novelists/playwrights/poets/actors/comedians but other writers/actors/comedians, who are far more vicious about their colleagues and rivals than most critics would dare to be. There's little that most

writers/actors/comedians enjoy more than reading a lacerating review of other writers/actors/comedians (especially, as Gore Vidal once pointed out, if the person being lacerated is a friend). Not that this less critics of the hook. Many critics are not, as Tylan suggested, people who know the way but don't know how to drive: many aren't certain what a car even looks like. But then other critics are more talented and entertaining than the people they write about: take Dorothy Parker's book reviews for *The New Yorker*.

So how should we view critics? And how much difference do they make anyway? The effect of a scathing review—depends on the target that a critic is aiming at. If the talent glows only like a matchstick, then it might well douse the flame; but a splash of cold water has little impact on truly incendiary talent.

So you can just imagine how lucky Jon Ronson must have felt when, having decided to take a critical look at critics and their world in a series for Channel 4 called *Critical Condition*, he chanced upon a snake eating its own tail in the form of Ian Shuttleworth—a comedy critic for the *Financial Times* who decided to cross the footlights and perform a stand-up routine at the Edinburgh Fringe. Like a Malvolio gulled into self-delusion by Ronson's flattery and by his colleague's anxiety about Shuttleworth's chances of winning the Perrier Award, Shuttleworth is lured into ever more fanciful conceits until he dares to appear at the nightly late-night show at the Caledonia Ballroom, convinced that glory awaits him. The audience here is made up largely of fellow comics, winking down after their own shows and sassing out this year's competition. I'm sure we



Joe Joseph

were shown the least engaging parts of Shuttleworth's routine, but what we heard was not very funny—though, to be fair, the abusive heckling from the unamused audience drowned out most of Shuttleworth's monologues. "That was the most hellish experience of my life, those 45 seconds," stuttered Shuttleworth, after making a dash for the wings like a shipwreck survivor gratefully

grabbing at dry land. "Frankly, I'm just not up to it again." This was the biter bit.

The comics in the audience rightly enjoyed some revenge. But rather than proving that all critics are knaves who have no right to offer their opinions on performers, all they did, curiously, was show that when someone gets on to a stage and he's even less amusing than a plane crash, then maybe it's a good idea if someone warns you before you waste your money buying two seats for Saturday night. But maybe the comics didn't see it like that. All you can say for certain in this prickly relationship is that: "I'm objective; you're envious; he's a critic." Oh yes, and that nobody seems to mind getting a gusting review.

Remember how I was saying that the blindest criticism can come from those in your own profession? Well even urbane Robert Redford does it. Asked, on *Des*

O'Connor Tonight (TV), why he didn't do more comedies like *Barefoot In The Park*, Redford replied: "What I try to do is put comedy into the work wherever I can. It's more subtle than probably a lot of stuff that's coming out of my country. But it's there because I couldn't do it without it, frankly." Course you couldn't, Bob!

Also on the show was William Hague, who looked rather older than Redford. He didn't speak in the mock Cockney accent Blair adopted when he recently sat on *Des*'s sofa, the better to bond with *Des*'s audience (do you think Blair takes voice classes from Prunella Scales to prepare for his weekly chats with the Queen?), but Hague told us nothing we didn't already know about him and Fionn. You can see what's in it for the politicians—a chance to portray themselves on TV as people who are not quite the

smug turnips we take them to be. But what's in it for us in these andyone political interviews, apart from speculating just how prosaic an answer has to be before *Des* doesn't chuckle in a manner that suggests he might actually be interviewing Groucho Marx?

In a haunting documentary about scared and confused young girls who smother their newborn babies after concealing their pregnancies, *QED* (BBC1) grabbed our attention by telling us that, "In Britain you are most at risk of being murdered on the first day of your life; and at the hands of your own mother." Really? This seems statistically improbable, given that each year 20 women kill their babies on the first day of their life, though I'll take *QED*'s word for it. But I'm not so sure about Ian Shuttleworth; you might still struggle to convince him that there are even crueler ways to die than telling jokes on a stage.

REVIEW

As HTV West except
10.25am-10.30 Breakaways (9552693)
1.00pm A Country Practice (22524)
1.30 Lunch in the Sun (7751780)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1913099)
6.25 Central News (647222)
6.55-7.00 Lifetime (155051)
10.40 Dreamland (498235)
11.40 Friday Night Fever (650501)
12.15am Still in Bed with Me/Dinner (3268755)
12.40 Millennium (7254620)
1.35 Live at Jongleurs (4284845)
2.05 Planet Rock Profiles (5068787)
2.35 Coz Office America (6461735)
3.00 Eyewitness (3723576)
3.25 Recollections (3723571)
3.50 Central Jobfinder '98 (1420668)
5.20 Asian Eye (1830858)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except
12.15pm-12.30 Westcountry News (8613148)
1.00 Emmerdale (20254)
1.30 Lunch in the Sun (7751780)
5.08 Birthday People (6508300)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1913099)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (57235)
10.30 Westcountry News (787341)
10.45 Digance in Dartmoor (303457)
11.45 Street Light (705322)
12.40am Millennium (4315587)

WESTCOUNTRY

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11.25 Blue Heelers (8487228)
1.00-1.30 Dinosaur (20254)
5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away (1913099)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (457)
6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (709)
10.45 FILM: Teatime Boss (9127254)
5.00am FreeScreen (48736)

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SAC

Starts 7.00 The Big Breakfast (25709) 9.00 The Bigger Breakfast (5195935) 9.05 Earthworm Jim (2711344) 9.30 California Dreams (69070) 10.00 Hang Time (5805780) 10.40 The Secret World of Alex Mack (1913099) 11.10 Buzz (855051) 11.45 Earle Indiana (6923781) 12.30pm Boy Meets World (70186) 1.00 Slot Meltin' (7022863) 1.15 Pingu (7027438) 1.30 FILM: The Man in the White Suit (84983) 3.00 Countdown (7344) 3.30 Watercolours: Challenge (815) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (322) 4.30 Estate Agent/Gene/Death Bro Ogwr (66728) 6.00 Newyddion 6 (21189) 6.10 Heno (465419) 7.00 Pabod y Cwm (145709) 7.25 Estate Agent/Gene/Death Bro Ogwr (6670780) 8.45 Newyddion (590761) 9.15 Black Box (38148) 10.15 The Tompkins (254954) 12.00am The Secrets of Sleep (820723) 1.05 Arthouse (895571)

NICKELDEON

8.00am The Dr. Seuss/Fish 'n' Mike including Groucho Marx, seven days a week
8.00am The Simpsons
8.30am The Simpsons
9.00am The Simpsons
9.30am The Simpsons
10.00am The Simpsons
10.30am The Simpsons
11.00am The Simpsons
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12.00am The Simpsons

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10.50 International Cricket: Fifth Test—England v South Africa The first day of the final Test, at Headingley. Coverage continues on BBC2 at 1.28 (12849070)

BBC2

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10.50 International Cricket: Fifth Test—England v South Africa The first day of the final Test, at Headingley. Coverage continues on BBC2 at 1.28 (12849070)

BBC2

6.10am Missing the Meaning? (7563148)
6.35 Restoring the Balance (3174419)
7.00 Open a Door (T) (8638693) 7.05 Teletubbies (T) (8655032) 7.30 Bertha (T) (2278761) 7.45 Gracie's Adventures (T) (6530265) 8.10 Get Your Own Back (T) (2025709) 8.35 X-Man (T) (9445032) 9.05 Kenan and Kel (T) (6822761) 9.35 Ocean Odyssey (T) (626612)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (1447506)
9.25 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (3171815)
10.30 Matters of the Heart (1930) Romantic drama with Jane Seymour, Christopher Gartin and James Stacy. Directed by Michael Rhodes (8355032)
12.20pm Regional News (9305006)
12.30 News (T) and weather (72544)
1.00 Shortland Street (20254) 1.30 Home and Away (T) (71815) 2.00 Lunch in the Sun (707548) 2.45 Supermarket Sweep (T) (850770)
3.15 News (T) (4729070)
3.20 Regional News (T) (4726993)
3.25 Tots TV (T) (4716506) 3.35 The Riddlers (T) (607307) 3.45 Cartoon Time (T) (1956693) 3.55 Paddington Bear (T) (378525) 4.15 Captain Star (T) (5983815) 4.40 Retrace (T) (5106983)
5.10 A Country Practice (1913099)
5.40 News (T) and weather (114542)
6.00 Home and Away (T) (71815)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (631525)
6.25 HTV Weather (560709)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (709)
7.00 Emmerdale Zoo keeps a watchful eye on Chris and Tara (T) (7631)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except
10.25am-10.30 Breakaways (9552693)
1.00pm A Country Practice (22524)
1.30 Lunch in the Sun (7751780)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1913099)
6.25 Central News (647222)
6.55-7.00 Lifetime (155051)
10.40 Dreamland (498235)
11.40 Friday Night Fever (650501)
12.15am Still in Bed with Me/Dinner (3268755)
12.40 Millennium (7254620)
1.35 Live at Jongleurs (4284845)
2.05 Planet Rock Profiles (5068787)
2.35 Coz Office America (6461735)
3.00 Eyewitness (3723576)
3.25 Recollections (3723571)
3.50 Central Jobfinder '98



ATHLETICS 40

Wariso on his marks in Stockholm

SPORT

THURSDAY AUGUST 6 1998

SAILING 42

Maxis lead the way at Cowes Week



Prospect of fine weather means Salisbury likely to be retained at Headingley

Stewart gives England relaxed lead

Judgment on Donald too harsh for comfort

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IT MAY be thought a dismal reflection of England's cricket that the nation can be captivated when the last Test match of summer presents even the possibility of a series victory.

long England have waited to win a major series. "Twelve years? Is that really what it is?" he asked, wide-eyed.

Only eight times since the last war have England reached the concluding game of a full series all-square.

However, he conceded that there has been a gratifying gladness around the country in the ten days since the Trent Bridge Test was so stirringly won.

DETAILS

ENGLAND (from): M A Atherton, M A Butcher, N Hussain, A J Stewart (captain), G A Hick, M A Ramprakash, A Flintoff, D G Cork, I D K Salisbury, D Gough, A R C Fraser, A D Mullaly.

Quite suddenly, cricket has become a fashionable subject again. The most unlikely people have been found discussing the game in the past week and the face of Angus Fraser, one of the heroes of Nottingham, has seldom been absent from television screens.

Umpires: P Willey (Eng) and J Akhtar (Pak). Third umpire: R Palmer (Eng). Match referee: A Ebrahim (Zim).

Such an upsurge in interest can be sustained only by further success and England, in recent times, have been conspicuously bad at putting together two or more good performances.

trawl back to 1955 to discover England winning a series in such circumstances. The good news is that South Africa were also the visitors then; the bad news is that the Headingley Test of that year resulted in a resounding defeat for the England side.

What, after winning one on the trot?" he grinned.

Conflicting portents can be found everywhere. Of nine Tests against South Africa at Headingley, for instance, England have won five and lost just the one. Yet the notion that this is a lucky ground for England holds no water. Since 1983, they have won only three games there and lost nine.

If the captain is refusing to be carried away, the same might be said of the good folk of Yorkshire. The county club described the public response since Trent Bridge as "a stampede", but if that is really the case, one hesitates to imagine how empty the ground might otherwise have been.

Alec Stewart, the England captain, is intent on clearing minds of all such statistical distractions. Yesterday, in skittish mood, he was even pretending not to know how

Headingley will be filled close to its 15,500 capacity tomorrow and Saturday, but 6,000 tickets remain unsold for today, a sobering statistic indeed. Those who do come may see the most significant cricket of the match. England remain uncertain



Donald, South Africa's strike bowler, was in cheerful mood on the eve of the fifth Test despite his rebuke from the international cricket community.

about their final XI. Mark Ramprakash, though still looking a shade unwell, declared himself sufficiently recovered from tonsillitis and Stewart indicated that Andrew Flintoff will hold his place at No 7, but the balance and personnel of the bowling attack remains unresolved.

This means that Alan Mullaly will again be the man left out, unless England choose to go in without a specialist spin bowler. Given that the weather forecast is as settled as it has been all summer, this would surely be a needless risk. England require variety in their bowling and, by discarding Mullaly, they are already limiting their options.

despite his melancholy 32 runs in four innings, are likely to replace Steve Elworthy with Makhaya Ntini and Paul Adams with Pat Symcox. They also believe that Shaun Pollock, who bowled tentatively in Nottingham after an injury, will be a different proposition now.

Hansie Cronje, the captain, accepts the need for Pollock and Allan Donald to win their duels with Michael Atherton, whose 476 runs in the series include the match-winning 98 not out in Nottingham. "We

feel we've bowled pretty well at him," Cronje said. "He's obviously a very good player, but he's also had his fair share of luck." One slice of luck helped England to victory at Trent Bridge and Cronje candidly acknowledged its impact.

Clubs admit super league talks

BY MATT DICKINSON

MANCHESTER United came clean yesterday over their involvement in talks about the formation of a European super league. A statement from the FA Carling Premiership club did little more than confirm the worst-kept secret in football, but the long-term ramifications of the few short paragraphs should not be underestimated, despite claims by Alex Ferguson, the manager, that the project is still potentially "ten years away".

The Football Association has been equally alarmed at the revelations, but the two clubs attempted to ease any fears yesterday by claiming that they remained committed to the FA Carling Premiership and other domestic competitions. "There is no question of Manchester United committing to a new competition until all appropriate consultations have taken place," read the United statement, which, as a public company, it was forced to release under Stock Exchange rules.

man said. "It's good news that this important issue is now out in the open." However, Ajax also publicly announced their involvement in the talks yesterday and it is clear that the breakaway plans of Silvio Berlusconi, the former Italian Prime Minister and owner of AC Milan, are advancing quickly.

and owner of AC Milan, are advancing quickly. The proposed rival to UEFA's Champions' League is believed to incorporate 32 teams split into two divisions, with a guaranteed income of at least £20 million, and possibly without any promotion from outside. The super league has the backing of J.P. Morgan, a Wall Street bank.



Ferguson: warning shot

Wise faces three-match suspension

BY MATT DICKINSON

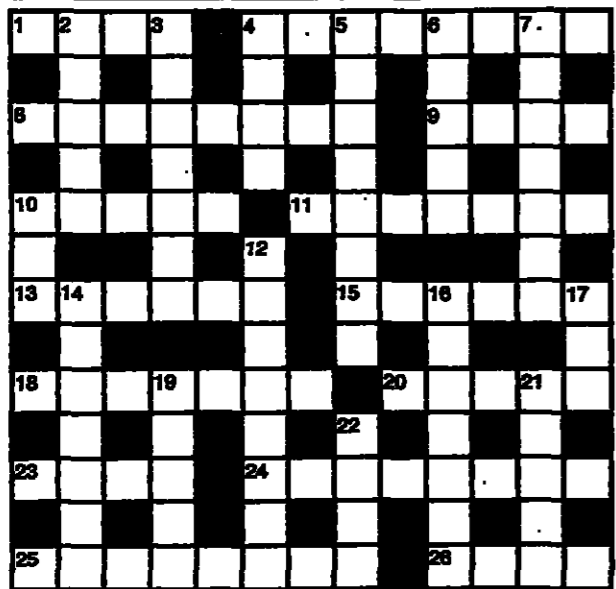
THE season has not yet begun but Dennis Wise is already in trouble. The Chelsea captain is almost certain to be banned for three FA Carling Premiership matches after being sent off for stamping during the match against Atletico Madrid on Tuesday.

Round Bossen, the referee for the game in Arnhem, which Chelsea lost 4-0, confirmed yesterday that he would report the incident to the Dutch football association. It is, in turn, expected to pass the information to Lancaster Gate officials, who are duty-bound to punish Wise for violent conduct.

are," Ferguson said. "I am very surprised he has not given himself the opportunity to speak to us. Now we hear he wants to go to London. If that is where he wants to live, there is nothing we can do about it." Ian Rush, 37, the former Liverpool striker, has signed a one-year deal to become player-coach at Wrexham, Rush, who had spells at Leeds United, Newcastle United and Sheffield United last season, said: "Money was not important. I had offers from Japan and Europe, but I like the set-up at Wrexham and I can learn the coaching trade."

Robert Jarni, who impressed for Croatia during the World Cup, has agreed terms with Coventry City. The Midlands club have offered Real Betis £2.5 million for the wing back.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1477

- ACROSS: 1 Race elan (4), 4 Source of newsprint (4, 4), 8 One rung by visitor (8), 9 Greek I (4), 10 Ben --, our highest mountain (5), 11 Beethoven opera (7), 13 A slight shaking (6), 15 Secured (good job): having estates (6), 18 Thin, glued board (7), 20 School group: put up (5), 23 -- Austen, novelist (4), 24 Heightened (8), 25 Under pressure: accentuated (8), 26 Looked at (4). DOWN: 2 Place of residence (5), 3 Outstanding bravery (7), 4 Work in garden: feeble person (4), 5 Source of "black gold" (8), 6 Value, cost (5), 7 Criss-cross screen (7), 10 Trap: after tax (3), 12 Superior num (8), 14 Dependent (7), 16 New baby: no, a teen (anag) (7), 17 Female rabbit (3), 19 In what place? (5), 21 Jumbies craft (Leah) (5), 22 Curve (4).

- SOLUTION TO NO 1476: ACROSS: 1 Housman 5 Lamp 9 Super 10 Wooster 11 Seeing things 12 Annual 13 Grovel 16 Honest broker 19 Mombasa 20 Genre 21 Desk 22 Dreamer. DOWN: 1 Host 2 Upright 3 Marginal seat 4 New Age 6 Anton 7 Parasol 8 Mother tongue 12 Ashamed 14 Vietnam 15 Aboard 17 Nines 18 Pear.

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